Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Radio Links Caribbean Maneuvers to Bush Security

FL0801204890 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The current U.S. naval operations in international waters off the Colombian Caribbean coast have caused great irritation in the South American country. No one knows exactly what Washington is seeking. Some opposition leaders have stated that everyone in Colombia should know exactly what is happening.

Thus far Washington has not officially informed the Bogota government about the reason for the naval operations, even though Brent Scowcroft—President Bush's adviser for national security affairs—stated that what the United States is seeking is to find ways of improving drug interdiction. Whether or not this claim is true, the Colombian Presidency has already issued a communique stating that Colombia has not participated and will not participate in joint maneuvers with U.S. naval forces in international waters in the Caribbean Sea. President Barco emphatically stated that he has not authorized and that he is not considering authorizing this type of maneuver in Colombian territorial waters.

The Colombian Government also refused to receive a U.S. delegation, which, according to THE NEW YORK TIMES, was going to brief the Bogota officials about U.S. plans of an air and naval blockade of Colombia to stop the drug trade.

It is possible that the U.S. objective may be heading in this direction, but this would not be the only objective. It is also possible that the U.S. operation is designed to strengthen President Bush's security. In this regard, it is proper to note that the U.S. President plans to attend an Andean summit in Cartagena de Indias to discuss the drug issue with the Andean presidents. Some media organizations have justifiably raised this question: Why is the U.S. naval operation taking place only off the Colombian Caribbean coast, and not on the Pacific, which is also used by the drug traffickers to export their shipments?

In the face of the political turn the matter has taken, this question will certainly be properly answered because, as the newspaper EL ESPECTADOR stated in its editorial, this is not just a precedent but true evidence of an outrageous, absurd policy, which is both unacceptable and humiliating.

Panama Invasion Seen as Human Rights Violation

FL0901042090 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Carlos Lechuga, a Cuban ambassador and expert in matters of human rights, has described the main human rights violations committed by the United States with its military invasion of Panama.

[Begin Lechuga recording] The United States has violated practically all the universally accepted principles of human rights with its military aggression against Panama. Sometimes it was done in a (?deliberate) manner and at other times by not respecting principles, which had a negative effect on human rights. First of all, we must discuss the self-determination of each nation, the principle of non-aggression, the Helsinki act of 1974, as well as the UN Charter and the OAS Charter. We can also point out in this long list of international documents the matter of sovereignty over natural resources. Despite all the excuses the United States has used and the campaign of disinformation it has carried out before and after the invasion, right now, everyone knows the main goal of the U.S. aggression against Panama is to prevent the Panamanian people from controlling and enjoying the Panama Canal. [end recording]

Central Army Inspection To Be Held 10-15 Jan

FL0901014790 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] A note from the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [MINFAR] reports that the national inspection of the Central Army territory to determine if it is prepared to be declared ready for defense, first stage, will be held in the Provinces of Matanzas, Villa Clara, Ciego de Avila, Sancti Spiritus, and Cienfuegos between 10-15 January.

For this reason, the residents of those territories are informed that unusual personnel movements will occur and that shots and explosions will be heard in the areas where military activities will be held. Signed, MINFAR.

Castro, PCC Discuss Sugarcane Harvest

WA0501092790 Havana Cubavision Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Third in a series of special programs on meetings between President Fidel Castro and Communist Party of Cuba, PCC, leaders at Havana's Palace of the Revolution on 11, 12, and 13 December—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] The recent meeting of the party leaders, presided over by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, dedicated many hours to the analysis of the sugarcane harvest. We then offer part of the discussion of this subject which is a top priority for the integral development of the country.

[Castro] The comrade from Granma Province should start.

[Roberto Damian Alfonso, first secretary of the PCC in Granma Province] First I should I talk about the sugarcane harvest, or in general.

[Castro] Whatever you would like.

[Alfonso] Then on the harvest, Commander and other comrades. [Castro] I am going to ask you some questions, perhaps that will help you. How much sugar was produced last year?

[Alfonso] Some 550,000.

[Castro] Then what are you doing, what is the situation, how many mills do you have, when did you start, and what are you doing?

[Alfonso] We started in 6 sugar mills that are still operating. Three started in December, and we have two left for January. We planned the following task after the recent meeting with you: to carry out the harvest as we have always wanted to but have not been able to. That is the essential. To this end, we are developing a meeting in each provincial sugar mill with all the party militants to discuss all the problems from the previous harvest. There is one province that is considered among the best for milling, but one of the worst in efficiency. We focused the work this way. Today we can say, without going into a lot of statistics, that as of now we are overfulfilling the plan for milled sugar, the recovered sugar, the yield with 0.72 more than last year. This is up to now. The basic problem we have now in the harvest is the shortage of labor Saturday and Sunday which is fluctuating 75 percent. This was one of the things we most often discussed with the cutters, the need to cut sugarcane Saturday and Sunday. This is a problem we have. The quantity of broken down transportation equipment is already known. We are always kept informed by [word indistinct] of the executive committee of the Council of Ministers about the situation with the tires. What concerns us is the two January sugar mills—which happen to be the two biggest, Ernesto Figeredo and Grito de Yara, both starting in January—and up to now there are now no replacements for tires. This is what can be said on the harvest up to now.

[Castro] How was the sowing?

[Alfonso] The sowing in the cold season?

[Castro] Yes.

[Alfonso] Some 35, 40 cabellerias. We are still missing the areas where it is raining, which in Cauto. [words indistinct] We will accomplish the plan by overfulfilling in another municipality. It's possible another municipality will fulfill the plan. The cold season plan will be fulfilled.

[Castro] Herrera, what about the tires for the mills that are having problems?

[Minister of Sugar Industry Juan Herrera Machado] We are finishing from December. The two mills in Granma are for January, [word indistinct] and Grito de Yara. We think that beginning 18-20 December we can turn over some of these tires. We are trying to see if we can deliver in December the tires for the mills which start in the first 10 days of January, otherwise it is possible they will be behind. But we still have problems with some the tires for the first ten, above all with transportation. We have assured December. In December we are missing 1,800 tires for transportation and the first 10 days of January. [as heard] We still cannot deliver tires for Granma, Commander.

[Castro] What is the outlook for solving....?

[Herrera, interrupting] The outlook for Granma can be solved. But they will be very bunched up. All the mills are having problems. The tires must arrive 60, 70 days in advance so that people can move equipment, etc. It is arriving very bunched up in every mill, but it can be guaranteed."

[Lazaro Vazquez Garcia, first secretary of the PCC in Camaguey Province] In view of the characteristics of this meeting, I must say that never in the history of the Camaguey Province have we been carrying out such large and important programs, as we are doing now. In many cases I would say racing the clock. Moreover, due to the importance of these programs, more programs will also be created, which will harmonize a very integral development in accordance with the province's potential. As far as the harvest is concerned, we should say that everything in Camaguey has been difficult, complicated, but this is a challenge for the province because it means repeating 1 million tons of sugar with 57 million less arrobas of sugarcane. We are aware of where the virtues lie, where the difficulties are. We have had good results in agriculture, which was very inadequate in the province, but in this crop year we purified 29,000 caballerias manually, 28,000 caballerias with herbicide. We introduced new technology with the herbicide that saved substantially in the amount of herbicide used. We need a higher yield from the point of view of industry where we have the most difficulty. I believe the province most inadequate from the point of view of industry is Camaguey. We have worked and centered all our efforts in resolving this problem. We have exchanged practically all our centers. The cadres in our province have exchanged with Las Villas Province, in which we perceive great industrial efficiency, great discipline, and this is beginning to show results. We must [changes thought] first we are going to cut 84 percent of the area, and we must produce a million tons of sugar. It is also certain that the Camaguey's industry has deteriorated. In 9 years we have had to set up 30 boilers, between German, Cuban, and mixed German-Cuban 16 turbogenerators and 8 tandems [as heard]. We are concluding the modernization of the sugar industry of the province. We are working and investing about 22 million pesos each year in an industry, including, as is logical, housing.

[Castro] Including what?

[Vazquez] Housing.

[Castro] Included in the 22 million....

[Vazquez, interrupting] That is to say that the agricultural stabilization we have achieved, was achieved two

ways: Mechanization, which this year reached 74 percent, 6 percent more than last year, and because we believed, [corrects himself] we grew by 3,300 agricultural workers stabilized with housing in this locale. I believe that in Camaguey there is no other way to continue growth in sugar than industrial efficiency, continuing to introduce technology, agricultural technology such as the case in drainage per parcel. We have had more than 565 caballerias, 960 of siphoned irrigation and continue working to the maximum with introducing...

[Castro, interrupting] What is your opinion, Lazaro, which interests us a great deal. We place great hope on this. We are investing abundant resources. What do you think of drainage per parcel?

[Vazquez] Let me give Brazil as an example. Brazil has almost 2,800 caballerias of sugarcane, including in many cases on good land. I believe that drainage per parcel makes it possible for Brazil to save between 800 and 900 caballerias. It can be done for sugarcane, we can save for sugarcane, I think it can be done for sugarcane. I think it has been shown in Brazil that what is being done there, the way they are working there, integrally, in all aspects related with mechanization, makes it possible. So the country is going to have great savings, a great growth of land in the same space. Brazil itself has 900 caballerias of irrigation. Brazil guarantees irrigation for all its areas. Drainage per parcel seems to be a very innovative technology, people have mastered it, and above all the people in this brigade are very enthusiastic. I would say that in Brazil this brigade works 12 hours a day, and on Sunday until 12. All the conditions have been created. The province has 12 brigades, 11 you assigned—or which you assigned to the minister and he assigned to us—and 1 brigade we set up in Brazil.

[Castro] You do not doubt that it is worth the effort....

[Vazquez] It is worth the trouble and I also think it is inexpensive. It is well invested, it is not complicated, it can be learned easily, leveling operators convert rapidly to this specialty. I have no doubts. I say this not because it is something new, but because I have visited many fields and I see the sugarcane grow. I say this, Commander, about the purification effort because if we don't purify 28,000 caballerias of sugarcane in the province, today we would have 200 millions less arrobas of sugarcane. The province has purified more than 95 percent for the first time in its history. The sugarcane is in very good condition except in the northern section that was very affected, but in spite of this, sugar production is going to grow, even in Brazil. We are milling in 6 sugar mills. Today the Cespedes sugar mill should start. Thirteen were ahead of schedule, 3 started on schedule, Cespedes was a little delayed but the rest of the mills have everything guaranteed to begin efficiently. So I see a basic focused effort and the party work, the union work, have followed this track. Since the sugar mill workers are very young, and the operators are very young, aktivs and plenaries were set up in each municipality, presided over by the UJC [Union of Young Communists] of the province and they are working hard on these problems which we have. If we continue to exchange with La Villa, Camaguey can be a great power in sugar production with the area we have and the agricultural technology we have learned. We have exchanged because Camaguey has many positive things, such as the sugarcane straw we do not burn any longer. Camaguey used to burn 70 percent of the area. Sugarcane is not being burned now. Whatever comes out, comes out. Sugarcane burning isn't planned anymore. In relation to the harvest, the siphoned irrigation covers 75 percent of the caballerias, not only in Brazil but also in Haiti and other sugar mills.

[Castro] What is the yield?

[Vazquez] The first cut we did an average of 220,000 arrobas. In the second cut, the average was less, around 150,000, 160,000 arrobas. In the beginning of the year the province was very affected in May, because it did not rain. In July there was very little rain, and in October, which is a decisive month, it did not rain or it did not rain as much as was needed. In spite of this, the province reached 45,000 arrobas, [corrects himself] more than 55,000 arrobas, which we believe is above this. Center by center we have seen the sugarcane, and we can say that the province has a reserve.

[Castro] Have you mentioned derivatives? There are note any derivatives in the province?

[Vazquez] We are weak in derivatives, because we are weak in the balance of energy in the mills. We have a lot of energy problems, but the minister has located and we have microlocated the furfural [sugarcane derivative] plant in [word indistinct] which is beginning to be constructed, and the [word indistinct] in the Agramonte mill, the glusose is working in Argentina, the sacharina starting in [word indistinct] and we already have in the plant in Siboney, practically the hydrolized bagasse, which will also be gathered for animal feed. If one province needs the rapid development of these derivatives from Camaguey—because we depend on the grass for the cattle [as heard].

[Tomas Cardenas Garcia, first secretary of the PCC in Villa Clara Province] After our meeting with you, we discussed, reviewed all this—we planned to produce more than the figure you presented, 45,000 tons more. This requires very serious, efficient work, work also that must begin with a review of our work, our own experiences, our own deficiencies, to achieve this and to achieve a yield of 1241. Last year it was 1222.

[Castro] It has not rained. The industry has no problems of repair, investment, transportation, equipment?

[Cardenas] As I said, it has not rained enough, and early December, when a group of mills was going to start up, there was a hurricane and we could not start 10 mills. Therefore, we have reprogrammed the harvest beginning with this, and this program will allow us to finish 18 mills in April; in the first 10 days of May, 7 mills; and 3

mills by 15 May. The mills we finish last need all the effort so that this program is fulfilled.

[Castro] Those three are not in the north?

[Cardenas] The Hector Rodriguez is pretty low but is a good mill, it is almost entirely mechanized, mills well, [word indistinct].

[Castro] Do not let the rain catch you in in that low part.

[Cardenas] With the rest we have no problem. In reality, springtime starts in the province between 10 and 15 May, almost always after 15 May. The sowing plan for the cold season, oh, excuse me, this harvest we planned not just to do it but to work efficiently in sugarcane agriculture and also the tasks have been programmed so the next harvest will be a large one also, not to the detriment of other harvests. We will work to mill no less than 800 million in the next harvest. The sowing in the cold season, out of 975 caballerias we have sown up to now 810. This area that was lacking is principally in the north. With this water it is not possible, 100 caballerias will be left, so in the first months of the year they will be incorporated, with irrigation, and will be sown from January to April to be able to count on this sugarcane. This year has been, in spite of all the difficulties and the drought, the year in which the most sugarcane in the last 7 years has been sown: 2,975 caballerias up to now. In the drainage per parcel, we have done 156 caballerias. We were going to do a little more now at the end of the year; the water in the coast interrupted us and left us as we are. With this and with what we did before with the semi-engineered drainage, we attained about 1,428 caballerias.

[Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, first secretary of the PCC in Matanzas Province] Since we finished the last harvest, in spite of the problems you know that affected the estimates. We also had serious problems with agroindustrial efficiency. We did an indepth analysis in each [word indistinct]. Also, at the provincial level, beginning with the bases—the brigades and the CPA [Agricultural-Livestock Cooperative]—we found what problems were affecting efficiency and we took measures not only for the harvest but for the industry itself. For example, for sugarcane, we cleared 70,700 caballerias, 29,000 manually, the rest with herbicide or mechanically. We also worked on repairs and investments and whatever affected harvest activity. On investments, we worked especially hard on energy problems this year and also on some types of manufacturing. We are setting up 9 boilers, 4 turbos, and a series of equipment for crystalization, milling, boilers, etc. which will improve the situation particularly in mills with the most problems: Espana, 6 de Augosto, Puerto Rico, Australia which also had problems last year. And, in addition, there was a long discussion in a meeting with you with all the collectives in [Cadacay] to improve all the work and efficiency in the harvest, above all to work in two directions: One, to reduce the burnings that most affected us last year. Twenty-four percent of the sugarcane was cut burnt.

[Castro] How much?

[Alvarez] Twenty-four percent. This was not planned. We did not plan this year, and we are trying to reduce it by 13 percent. The other issue is the sugarcane that is delayed. Seventeen percent of the sugarcane is delayed. We are working on measures to reduce this—the time between when it is cut and pulled down—and to reduce the losses in harvest. The last time we met with all the mechanized operators—because 83 percent of the sugarcane cut in the province is done mechanically...

[Castro, interrupting] How much?

[Alvarez] Some 83 percent. It was planned and agreed to reduce by 1 percent, based on the plan, our losses during harvest. This means about 7 million arrobas of sugarcane, approximately, and around 8,000 tons of sugar if we achieve this objective. The same was achieved in industry. In addition, we took advantage of a video made by the comrades of the national MINAZ [Ministry of Sugar Industry] on agroindustrial problems. We passed it on to all the collectives, the part that corresponds to each one. Thus, in this aspect we are concentrating our greatest effort from the point of view of this sugarcane harvest. We began the harvest in two sugar mills, in Juan Avila and in Rene Fraga. First, because of the hurricane that did not actually come but affected us by its rains, and then because of this latest rain that fell in December—154 millimeters throughout the province, in some places it was more—we had to stop the cutting in those two mills. The others we planned to start up, we cannot start up for 48 hours, 72 hours. We preferred to start up the harvest and to make up this time later, under the best conditions, and not to make any mistakes that would affect the harvest.

[Victorino Lemus Rivero, first secretary of the PCC in Havana Province] This moral commitment for fulfilling the sugar production plan, we discussed in each center, at the level every worker in the sugarcane cutter brigades, and we are working and we are convinced as to how to fulfill this commitment. An important aspect we have been working on all this year and especially since 1986, when a plenary provincial committee plenum analyzed everything related to the province's sugarcane program, is that at that stage we cut only 9 percent of green sugarcane, the rest was burned sugarcane. Since then we set up a program to arrive at 22, then 37; the last harvest was 51, and we aim for this harvest to cut 62 percent of green sugarcane. Thus, we have raised this enough so that in the coming years we can get close to to 90 percent of green sugarcane. In order to increase cutting green sugarcane in our province in that stage, we mobilized 21 brigades of sugarcane cutters. In this harvest, with our personnel, we mobilized 43 brigades of sugarcane cutters, including the UJC brigades cutting in the Sandino sugar mill. In Havana City we mobilized 28 brigades.

The sowing plan for this year is for 1,399 caballerias. We fulfilled the spring sowing. We still have 89 caballerias to do. We will fulfill this and we will work to overfulfill the sugarcane sowing plan by 20 caballerias. This year we are also of the opinion—we have also analyed it in the centers—that this was the year when the greatest effort was expended on purifying sugarcane. Nevertheless, the final touch was not given to the problem with the labor force in Havana. Nevertheless, this year we purified more than 95 percent of the sugarcane in this stage.

[Jorge Valdes Rodriguez, first secretary of the PCC in Sancti Spiritus] In the harvest, we are thinking—because of the small problems we had in the beginning with the hurrisugarcane which was not much but did affect us somewhat, particularly in the south and also in the north—because of the weather, the cold front that we had when the hurrisugarcane went throughout the country. We do not think, in general, there were any problems. Well, there is a lack of supplies, but we really have solved the problem with a supply of tires and spare parts We started the harvest in a satisfactory manner.

[Juan Lazo Esteban, first secretary of the PCC in Santiago de Cuba] At present there is a good outlook. The yields are good. For a several days the America Libre mill had a yield of almost 12, the Dos Rios had 88—that was one of the better ones. We have almost 1.9 above last year's yield. This is good, of course. We are working toward this, because in my opinion we are going to have less sugarcane than we planned, because there are some areas where the drought was a big factor. In October, it practically did not rain at all. Nineteen percent of the [word indistinct] in November there was very little. We believe that to reach our objective, we must start with organizing the harvest. We are working in this direction. This discussion is also on the level of central [word indistinct], what had to be done and who had to do it—that is, who cultivates, who purifies, who sows—to deal with the volume of areas we are covering in the harvest, which is almost 87 percent, to try to organize the hours to fulfill the sugarcane, in order to guarantee the next harvest. This is what we are doing in the harvest. Now we had to bring in a few sugarcane cutters, which I think is good because it has been an example of the need for quality. Thus the comrades who used to cut 500 arrobas messily now know they have to do a good job. In the three mills that have started up we see great progress.

[Francisco Garcia Ferrer, first secretary of the PCC in Holguin Province] So you know that in the sowing in the cold season, in spite of the drought, 1,500 caballerias were sown.

[Castro] Did you get any rain?

[Garcia] There were places where it rained. We needed it, because we had to recover 400 caballerias that were lost in the spring.

[Castro] We have to pay special attention to the sugarcane in Holguin, where we will cut 86. A special attention to cultivate the sugarcane, to fertilize, and so on, setting the conditions for the following year. Although drought recurs in this area and will recur again, we have some ideas as to what we will do in Las Tunas and Holguin with regard to water. Of course, we will work at today's pace, not as in other times. We have built a dam in Las Tunas and it did not hold water this spring. How many cubic meters are there?

[Unidentified speaker] Seven million.

[Castro] How many?

[Unidentified speaker] Seven.

[Castro] Seven million? That is all it accumulated in springtime.

[Unidentified speaker] That is all.

[Castro] Well, we have some ideas. We are not going to stand still in the face of all these calamities and we have ambitious, serious ideas. We are doing, working on all of this. We would not have thought of these things 20 years ago. We are thinking of taking water from the Mayari River to Holguin and then thinking of taking it to Las Tunas, thinking of taking water from that river— what is the name, the other one—and then taking the water from San Miguel. And we are thinking of taking the Desagua River to Las Tunas, and we are calculating how to do it—what tunnels we have to build—but we will work hard on this. We must not be resigned to the tragedy in these two provinces. We will take the mountain rivers there, and quickly. It will not take 16, 25 years. And the other day we reinforced the Mayari River and the [Melor] dam. On Monday [corrects himself] on Wednesday we will have a meeting and invite people from MINFAR [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces] who make tunnels, to discuss the construction of those tunnels, what equipment is needed, and when we can start to use the water from [Melor] coming out by Biran [text missing] from this river, and then we will have water for the Cauto rice fields. And we will have water. This will not be very far off. We are going to accelerate this Mayari River. And on Wednesday, we are going to discuss and plan with our comrades who are specialized in making tunnels, so that they tell us how much equipment, approximately, is needed to work in how many directions to supply water from the Mayari over there and to supply water from the other river, San Miguel, and (Sagua). We don't have a place to use that water over there. There is no agriculture there. We are going to put it in tunnels, and there it goes. The countryside there is undulating, mountainous. Yes, something can always be solved, which is logical. But we have to find a historical, strategic solution to all the water in Biran and Nipe. We have to work at top speed in using this water which we have brought here and there, in 2 years if possible, 3 at the most. Nine hundred caballerias that can be irrigated with this water, that still does not include the Mayari.

[Garcia] No, it does not include it. That is for Nipe and Sabanilla.

[Castro] How many drainage-per-parcel brigades do you have? [Garcia] Now we have eight brigades.

[Castro] What are the results of the drainage per parcel?

[Garcia] I have it here, Commander. In general, 412 caballerias have been completed. In the spring, the yield was 154,000 arrobas per caballeria. In the autumn there were 103,000. In the cold season of 1987, 115 000. In the spring of 1988, 114,000.

[Castro] In all these cases were [word indistinct] arroba. [Garcia] Yes, it was used?

[Garcia] Siphon. This year out of 284 caballerias in the plan, 111 have been completed, and in the 2 centers we expect to fulfill the plan, not counting Maceo, which was affected by the lack of rain, and the drainage per parcel fell behind. But in general, 30 caballerias of the 284 caballerias will be left. And now we are completing six brigades more...

[Castro, interrupting] Can you compare this with areas where there is no drainage per parcel system?

[Garcia] Well, practically 40,000 arrobas, 50,000. There are places where there is almost double.

[Castro] Rizo, in the report you sent me, it says that in some cases in a second harvest the yield is lower.

[Julien Rizo Alvarez, PCC Central Committee secretary] Chief, the problem is the following. Drainage per parcel is a technology that is applied. If after the first cut, the same is not strictly applied—the purifying and the use of water—there is a reduction. One example is that there are some mills where the third cut was lower. Thus we cannot just leave it at drainage per parcel. Each one of the caballerias that comes out of drainage per parcel must have, besides the knowledge of the workers, the quality of the seed, and sufficient work each day with respect to...

[Castro, interrupting] There should be no reason for all this.

[Rizo] No reason, Commander. It is a defect we impose on it. It is necessary to emphasize this, because the opposite is....

[Castro, interrupting] Do you think that only with drainage per parcel....

[Rizo, interrupting] It cannot be done with just that. As happens with other areas of our agriculture, drainage per parcel alone will not maintain the figures we are planning. It requires the worker knowing whoever is going to work there. He has to be taught. He has to be told what we want.

[Announcer] All speeches on the sugarcane harvest do not appear in this informative summary. Each of the first secretaries of the provinces reported on their problems and solutions applied to this important economic sector. After the exchange, the commander in chief gave specific guidance.

[Castro] We did not have good luck with the weather this year. I recall that in 1987 in a meeting of the Central Committee, I proposed we make a special effort regarding sugarcane, because it was a good year of rain. In some cases the rain was excessive and harmful—as occurred in Cienfuego, Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus with those huge rainstorms. We appealed to the people to work in July and August to purify the sugarcane. As a result, we had a harvest of more than 8 million tons of sugar in the 1988-89 harvest. In truth, we proposed making a special effort and that is what we did. An important sowing program, an important purifying program, including an important program to acquire equipment that would use fertilizer well and to the maximum extent. Several hundreds of units of equipment were purchased in Brazil. Parts were bought to make more here. The containers [mochilas] were brought by plane from China. The harvest ended early. The entire month of May was spent in sowing and purifying. We are making an effort to attain a harvest of 8 and ½ million tons in a normal year of rain. There was nothing more unusual, nothing more unfortunate, than what happened this year—when it did not rain even in May or June. This was truly unusual. I asked myself, what damage is this going to do to agriculture and to the sugarcane. Luckily it rained in July. It was something, but not the same as rain in May and June. Hundreds of thousands of caballerias that had been sown but had not received water, were already lost. Luckily, it rained pretty well in August. This was lucky because it could have been a greater disaster. But May and June, when it did not rain, were full of anguish—in spite of our great effort in sowing and purifying. I saw that 1989 was going to be a serious year. None of those catastrophes we are talking about happened in this time. But it was clear that our situation was a difficult one. Where did our problems come from, as described by our comrade, party secretaries in the provinces. We made plans in the 80's [as heard]. We made commitments to sell sugar. Plans and commitments were made, but unfortunately, comrades, the things to guarantee these millions of tons sugar were not done. Mills were built, the mills were used, the mills were modernized. But the plans to irrigate the sugarcane, water resource management [voluntad hidraulica] disappeared. The plans to build dams were put on hold. The dams' construction started to go on eternally: 15 years, 20 years. For dams that were built 12, 14 years ago, canals were not built. Canals that brought water in Alacranes throughout the north of Santa Clara didn't exist before, and we're building them now. It appeared that we had the best of all worlds. You would ask how the plans were doing. No, the plans are being fulfilled in values, not the objectives, but it looked like it was a matter of 2 months, 3 months.

Between the JUCEPLAN [Central Planning Board] and the Ministry of Construction, 2 or 3 persons appear to

have agreed to develop a real lie about all this. Even we ourselves are not aware of what is happening, what was happening. It seemed that the plans were being fulfilled in irrigation, in the dams, in the canals. It was all a lie, comrades. I remember a meeting with the executive committee. A comrade of ours traveled around the country, saw all the dams, and brought us a report on the disastrous state of the hydraulic works throughout the country. No one would have believed it. Every year it seemed that things were going well and the economy was growing. The plans were being fulfilled in values, but not in objectives. It seemed that any work was behind 2 or 3 months. When we began to discover what was really happening, a little late unfortunately, we realized that there were highways like the Santo Domingo to Corralillo that was going to take 65 years to build.

Something that the Ministry of Construction was told was not to destroy, not to undo the brigade. They disorganized everything, mixed enterprises, built railroads, highways, dams; they created chaos. Comrades, it was really incredible. There was that comrade's report at a meeting. We saw how the fulfillment of the plans for the years 1990-95, 1980-85 would be [as heard]. What was not done in 1 year, what fell behind, equalled 1 year out of the 5-year plan without doing anything. But the worst wasn't this. Because you can build 150 million instead of 200, but out of 150 million dams that were finished, of canals, of irrigation systems were finished, in reality not even one was finished. When it seemed that 150 million were finished, not one project was completed. I want you to know that before 1975, significant plans for water projects and irrigation were made, and all these plans were paralyzed.

When we realized it, all this was paralyzed and had to be rebuilt: The construction of dams, canals, irrigation systems, construction of drainage per parcel systems to dispose of the necessary sugarcane, how to confront these obligations. I will cite an example. Calculating the 40,000 additional arrobas of sugarcane per hectare, the capacity we had at the beginning of the year, the drainage per parcel was enough for 20,000 hectares, a little less than 20,000 hectares. This was approximately what was done this year, 20,000 hectares. Twenty thousand hectares was approximately equivalent to producing 80,000 more tons of sugar per year. Because we do not lack capacity in our mills, but rather sugarcane. We will begin 1990 with a capacity for 60,000 hectares, with the drainage per parcel system. This means increasing the capacity by 240,000 tons of sugar per year. By the end of this year, we are thinking of having 200 drainage per parcel brigades, thus the capacity will be 100,000 hectares per year. This means that with the same land, we think that in 1991 the capacity for production will be 400,000 tons of additional sugar per year.

We have to work on 800,000 hectares. This means that we must increase the irrigation and drainage systems. Only in this way will it be possible to produce 2 and ½ million tons more of sugar. I do not ask for more, because not all the sugarcane being sown or already sown is harvested every year. But it is a proven resource, with conservative figures, and the only way we have to attain this production of 10 or 11 or 12 million tons of sugar. We have to start doing this now, desperately. We have had to build an irrigation factory that at a given moment will have a capacity to produce 120,000 hectares of irrigated land per year. Only in this way, with the factory in Bayamo, when it is producing 1,500 machines, can we increase the irrigation of sugarcane, vegetables or other things, by 120,000 hectares a year—not counting irrigation in rice, new lands, other systems of irrigation such as siphon irrigation, that we discussed here.

If we wanted to attain 10 million tons of sugar, we had to do this and it was not done. If we had only done this, I say nothing else. But sugarcane is more than all this. Sugarcane is honey for [word indistinct], it is honey for the cattle, it is raw material for the sacharina and the plans we are forming. Sugarcane is raw material for milk, sugarcane is much more. We have to struggle for sugarcane, not just for the reasons I explained but because it is exceptional raw material. Now, gentlemen, with the land we have devoted to sugarcane, and dedicating only 70 percent, the potential of our land area to produce sugar is around 14 million tons of sugar—say 13 and 1/2, because of the yield, because some good varieties were affected by blight. But 13 and ½ million tons at least of sugar, if we simply get 100,000 arrobas per caballeria.

I think that with the level of technology we have in this country, with the number of engineers we have, the cadres we have today, if we decided on 100,000 arrobas under conditions in which we will irrigate more than half the sugarcane lands—and there are lands which reach 100,000 without irrigation—and we can push the age of the stock to 13 months, 14 months, 15 months, it is not some arcane theory or utopia to talk about a yield of 100,000 arrobas per caballeria. With what we are doing we must arrive there, we must work for this, and get a hold one by one of each factor that impedes this, and resolve them one by one. Rizo could talk about one of these things.

There are some ideas about leftover sugarcane and the age of the stock has become a magical, mystical word. The age of the stock is nothing. Sure, if instead of my having sugarcane of 11, 12, or 13 months, I have it of 18, I should get more arrobas per caballeria. There is no merit to that, doubling the sugarcane lands and giving it 14 or 15 months. But the case is that, including 14 month sugarcane, we get 60,000 arrobas, 65,000. And even with irrigated sugarcane we have 70,000, 75,000. There is a series of subjective factors here, or objective problems, that we have that stand in our way to prevent us from giving the sugarcane the treatment it requires, problems with programming what sugarcane can remain. There is land where the sugarcane should not stay, because the land wears out, it lacks the proper conditions. The sugarcane that stays dries out, not every caballeria, not every sugarcane, can be left for 14 months, 15 months. We have to take care with certain ideas and certain interpretatons so that the famous problem of age of the

sugarcane does not become an excuse for not caring for the sugarcane, seeking yields only by age, leaving any sugarcane anywhere, any sugarcane of any variety. Whoever knows a little bit about sugarcane knows that there are kinds that should not be left for more than 14 months, others cannot be left for more than 15. There are some that resist for 20, others are better off with 12. The soil, the variety of sugarcane, are the factors that will determine the age of the sugarcane to seek the optimum. To universalize and to solve everything with the open sesame of the age of the sugarcane can have its problems and serious disadvantages. And I want you, comrades, to meditate, you comrades who are the leaders in this municipality to meditate on all this. It is a question of meditating seriously on this type of problem. We must fix it.

We are fighting diseases, we have analyzed and discussed a plan against the famous smut which is also a problem here. Finding varieties, preparing the seed, we are setting up dozens of centers for seed, to warm it, to purify it, to cure it. We are not forgetting sanitation problems either, nor are we forgetting the problems of varieties. There is a whole plan and program for this. There are many enemies: Hurrisugarcanes, droughts, floods, lowlands. We must fight all the enemies to set up a program. What I am proposing here is not for next year, it is for the next decade, what we must do with sugarcane.

We must optimize in seeking sugar yields, not lose sugarcane, industrial yield, organized cuts, planned by age, by stock. Optimizing means, comrades, you must prepare the conditions. One of the first tasks in a potential war of the whole people is to take steps so that we do not fail in supplying the sugar mills. And when we mobilize with order, and priorities, mobilize all personnel that is needed, so that there is sugarcane in the mills. Because we have a narrow limit. We cannot plan a harvest by finishing with a week ahead, as we did last year. We were ahead, and then it rained. It was well done. Nobody can be sure whether there will be no rain in March or April. This can happen, and so we must take advantage of each day of the harvest in the best way possible. We want to cut when the yield is highest but this means there is not a single day's leeway, not a single day. Of course, in the end it is better to cut in May, with 10 or 10 and ½ than to cut in November with 8 or 7 and 1/2, everyone knows this. But we must do a tremendous amount of purifying work for the other harvest, a tremendous amount of sowing. Then we must make a great effort in March, April, May, when the workforce is worn out we must send reinforcements. Any day when cutting can be done, use it. Don't waste a Saturday, a Sunday. Every day lost is lost forever. It might send us into May, it might send us into the rains. You need an intelligent strategy. How to take out the sugarcane from the lowest areas—this entire strategy as if we were to get rains in March, April, as if we would go into May—a strategy for every province, for every mill, so that whatever happens, the sugarcane we have we take. And we take it with a good yield. Not only this, but whatever happens let us sow the sugarcane that must be sown, and let us purify the sugarcane that must be purified.

Fourth Castro, PCC Meeting Report

FL0201154090 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish at 0200 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Fourth in a series of special programs on meetings between President Fidel Castro and Communist Party of Cuba, PCC, leaders at Havana's Palace of the Revolution on 11, 12, and 13 December—recorded]

[Text] [Castro] Do you have anything to say on industrial investments?

[Roberto Damian Alfonso Gonzalez, PCC first secretary of Granma Province] We plan to finish the (Rio Fregau) industrial project by the end of this month or early January. That is a civilian project.

[Castro] How is the project progressing?

[Alfonso Gonzalez] It is progressing....

[Castro, interrupting] What are the results. How has it started out?

[Alfonso Gonzalez] It is doing well. There are two shifts. As of yesterday, 211 pieces of equipment were shipped out of the province. They were lacking parts, as you know, including cable and a part from a Cienfuegos factory. But we have finished a few and there is a real possibility of finishing 300.

[Castro] What about the spare parts factory? Won't there be a greater capacity for manufacturing parts....

[Alfonso Gonzalez, interrupting] The factories....

[Castro, interrupting] The parts were designated for ships.

[Alfonso Gonzalez] That's correct. In the spare parts factory, everything is practically all sitting in a row.

[Castro] They are building the factory....

[Alfonso Gonzalez, interrupting] It is being built alongside it.

[Castro] That is right. How is the Manzanillo factory doing?

[Alfonso Gonzalez] The teaching center?

[Castro] How is the work going? What are the possibilities for its expansion? How is the pipe factory for river (?drilling) progressing? What are the possibilities for its expansion? What do you know about all this. What does the party know about this? Are they on top of all this?

[Alfonso Gonzalez] Yes. There is control. We have a weekly [corrects himself] monthly meeting in which Comrade Lage [member of the PCC Central Committee

and of the Coordination and Support Staff of the Council of State] and I discuss certain factors. We check these projects every month.

What more can I say? The comrades have asked if you will approve them to become [words indistinct] in Camaron and Manzanillo when you were there. They would like to become a contingent. You said that their work is similar to the work done in the biotechnology center in Havana. They had a plan of 120,000 and they have finished 180,000. They want to become a contingent.

The materials industry in Cacao, Guani, and Espanola—which has never produced 1.2 million [unit not specified]—have fulfilled their plans this year. In December, they will have manufactured 1,020 million cubic meters of materials.

[Castro] Where are those materials all stored?

[Alfonso Gonzalez] They are stored in the five eastern provinces. We invested in a railroad system that cost 5 million pesos. Prior to that, transportation only consisted of trucks. Now we are shipping by train.

The water resources management program includes the three dams you are familiar with, five canals, and the spillway. We are now involved in that work. It does not include the three projects in (Carte Paso). We began the first of three canals in (Carte Paso). We are finishing the (Gitana) and we are almost done with the Cautillo project. A total of three dams, five canals, and the....

[Castro, interrupting] When will the Cautillo project be finished?

[Alfonso Gonzalez] It will be finished in February 1990. It should be able to supply water from the spillway and the canal.

[Castro] What is the productivity of the contingents that are building those 3 dams?

[Alfonso Gonzalez] Cost per peso or construction?

[Castro] Yes, what is the cost per peso?

[Alfonso Gonzalez] It costs approximately 70 centavos.

[Castro] In each project?

[Alfonso Gonzalez] One costs 71 centavos, another costs 72 or 70 centavos.

[Castro] What was the cost of (Cauto el Parque), El Corojo, before the contingent was formed?

[Alfonso Gonzalez] Its cost was 130 or 140 pesos.

[Castro] No, forgive me, it was 270 pesos.

[Alfonso Gonzalez] Yes, that is right, it was 270 pesos. The last part was 130 or 140 pesos.

[Castro] It was 270 pesos. It's important. I also want to see the progress we are making, the results of the efforts. The Corojo dam has been under construction for 21 years. It will finally be finished by the end of next year because of the contingent that was created, because of the measures that have been taken. The three dams are very important. We then have to bring the water in from the Camazan River to complete the project. Work is being done now on the canals, on the Cautillo and the....

[Alfonso Gonzalez, interrupting] The other is the (Carte Paso).

[Castro] The other is in the (Carte Paso).

[Alfonso Gonzalez] There are three of them.

[Castro] Next year, we have to work simultaneously on the other canals so that as soon as the dams are finished, we will have the canals and we can begin our irrigation system. [pounds table 10 times]

[Jorge Valdes, PCC first secretary of Sancti Spiritus Province] Up to the moment, in December, regarding the materials industry, which as you know has received an investment of about 90 million pesos in our province, we have finished the tile factory, the mosaic tile factory, and we are still working on the (Concresa), (Tubo), and (Ciego Raso) factories. They are new, small factories that will be installed right there in the concrete combine. We are working on the red concrete factory, which had been assigned to the people's government and which you later assigned to the Construction Ministry. We are also working on the white ceramic factory, which had some problems in mid-year, above all with the prefabricated material, but this has now been resolved. We finished the light concrete factory, which, since you last visited, is now operational. It has been producing for 2 months now. The [words indistinct] factory is also being worked on and we are waiting for some supplies that have not yet arrived. The line of white cement, as you know, was finished yesterday. The workers fulfilled the commitment of [words indistinct]. The workers gave me a communique in which, in addition to reporting that they had met their production goal of 25,000 tons, they pledged to produce another 5,000 more tons during the remainder of this month.

In reference to the tourism plan [words indistinct] the causeway to which we have assigned equipment. As of yesterday, we had built 2,045 meters of the Ancon causeway [words indistinct]. We have worked on the small square. We have begun to break ground on the Ancon II. We have received plans for the expansion of the Southern Coast Hotel and this month we should receive the plans for the Cuevas, the Cuevas Hotel, each of which has 30 rooms.

We continue to work on the main plan of the Ancon territory with the criteria that we told you about during your last visit to our province regarding the possibility of constructing 10,000 more rooms. Another important program that we have in the province is the development

of water resource management. Work continues on the Felicidad dam. We have maintained our commitment of completing the dam in May 1990. We are working on the projects to be built in the second stage by the (Bella Mota) brigade, which you are familiar with. Work is also being done on the (Aridana) and (Crisol) projects. Research is being done on the Mayor dam. Temporary installations are being built for the construction workers there.

[Castro] Then we are almost, almost [repeats himself] able to fulfill the plan for organizing all the brigades we proposed by 31 December, those that are a priority. Almost 50 have been created to build drainage systems for sugarcane fields. [Words indistinct]. Some have been organized in Camaron in Las Tunas. That is an old promise. I planned to make it one of the largest, most important fronts. I gave a lot of thought to what to do because there are many things to do. The people organized themselves well. They built the road. However, it is not finished yet. Only part of it is done. It is possible that what we wanted to do by 31 December....

[Valdes, interrupting] Yes, but we will fulfill the plan by the beginning of January.

[Castro] We will have everything organized by 31 December but it will take 1 month longer to complete. That is the worst that can happen. It will take one more month to fulfill the plan. We have been organizing, organizing, and organizing [repeats himself] this entire year. We do not know how much of the workforce, how many contingents, and brigades [words indistinct].

[Fidel Ramos Perera, PCC first secretary of Pinar del Rio Province] [Words indistinct] 17 dams, 66 microdams, 425 [words indistinct], 545 water resource management projects. [Words indistinct] There are currently 606.3 million which is 73 percent. The province has the capacity for 1,953 million cubic meters of water out of a potential of 3,352 million cubic meters. This is what is regulated [words indistinct] to fulfill 50 percent of the capacity of the dams in the province. We inaugurated two dams this year: the Patate and Guama. Next year could be historic as far as water resources are concerned in the province. If everything happens as planned, we should reach Rio Rancho, which is west of the province, by December. By February, we should reach the Paso Viejo, Hondo, and Nombre de Dios rivers if the brigade gets the equipment it needs. We would have close to 100 million cubic meters of water that we could use next year. That is in addition to the Guama spillway. It is possible that this may be a year that is difficult to repeat. Next year we may not be able to have everything go as planned.

Other investments have been made in the [words indistinct]. The implementation program is clearly working here. It is a worthy program that you provided us with. We have been working on this and it seems that the delay has not been bad. In accordance with the Soviet projects that were accepted by the Cubans at first, although we have discovered that they are very [word indistinct], there was a total investment of 50 million pesos in assemblage costs. This was reduced to 31 million pesos and we have thus far spent 25 million and we expect it to go up a little. Some projects, depending on the size are 25 to 70 percent completed. The first steps... [rewords] Steps are being taken....

[Castro, interrupting] Why is that happening, that you started with a budget of 50 million pesos first, then your budget dropped to 30 million and finally to 25 million pesos? How do you explain that?

[Ramos] Well, these reductions are due to the fact that some projects are oversized....

[Castro, interrupting] [Words indistinct] because you said, welcome to the project site, but it has been delayed.

[Ramos] Because 50,000 pesos out of 3 million....

[Castro, interrupting] What was that?

[Ramos] No, construction and assemblage costs were estimated at 50 million pesos; then it dropped to 31 million pesos. Now it is estimated at 25 million. It seems as though we can keep this cost figure unchanged. The builders believe, however, that they can further reduce this figure.

In practice, we have seen that we were able to complete 70 percent of the El Polvorin construction project with 21 percent of the funds earmarked for it. We completed construction of the spare parts factory; the aluminum plant....

[Castro, interrupting] More than a spare parts factory, that is a factory of automotive components.

[Ramos] Yes, it is a factory of automotive components. Conditions are ready to start manufacturing components for transmission gears. This year, we hoped to make 300 but we could only make 110. Next year, we expect to double the production of components for the (Wilson) transmission gears. The factory personnel prepared....

[Castro, interrupting] Wouldn't fall short if you just double the above figure, Ramos?

[Ramos] Approximately 700 were sent, but the figures are still [words indistinct].

[Castro] [Words indistinct] that approximately 200 Cuban buses require those transmission gears.

[Ramos] According to the figures we were working with, approximately 700 are needed. I do not know the figures for current needs.

[Castro] Well, yes.

[Ramos] Regarding our general construction program, we are going to increase....

[Castro, interrupting] You have overlooked the electronic industry. You have not said anything....

[Ramos, interrupting] No, here it is. No, because... [changes thought] electronic component. We have completed the civil engineering portion of the silicon carbide project, which is an interesting project. We are working on engineering projects, we have some contracts that are quite behind schedule. From the Soviets, I understand you borrowed [corrects himself] we are negotiating some $400 million. It will thus be possible to manufacture the 75-mm wafer.

[Castro] That was for the air conditioner.

[Ramos] The air conditioner.

[Castro] For air conditioning.

[Ramos] It will be completed this year. The carbide resistor project will be completed this year. A brigade of the electronic industry carried out very interesting work. They virtually visited every region of the country and got into those ships there in Bahia Honda, where they obtained a large supply of materials such as slate, electrical wires, compressors....

[Castro, interrupting] What ships are you talking about?

[Ramos] The shipwreck area.

[Castro] Ah.

[First unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] Go on.

[Ramos] We are working in a factory of basic components. They can manufacture a percentage of the chips and parts of the components they need for their production. We are already working in component factory number two, which is much larger than the first one, and it will be practically twice as large. We have invested 40 million pesos in its construction, which will require more than 150 million pesos. We have promising prospects.

Well, regarding construction materials, we have completed the earth movement stage for the tile factory in San Cristobal, which will produce 24 million tiles, and everything has been done with the idea that it will be completed next year.

[Castro] It is supposed to be finished by December next year. To me, that is a long time. Well, in the meantime, other plants designed to produce 15 million tiles or other quantities are being completed here. It will be very useful if these and the San Cristobal plant are finished by that time. I believe we have everything we need to build it. Which brigade is building it?

[Ramos] A brigade of the Construction Ministry. Our province currently produces 5 million tiles, and we are now making investments in the city of Pinar del Rio to increase our production to 15 million tiles, which should also be [word indistinct] this year.

[Castro] So, from a total of 5 million....

[Ramos, interrupting] 39 million.

[Castro, continues] ...we will increase it to nearly 40 million.

[Ramos] Nearly 40 million.

[Castro] Nearly 40 million tiles, which are most commonly used to make roofs [words indistinct]. Aren't you working there in a project involving stones and sand, because like Villa Clara, Pinar del Rio will have to supply stone and sand to the western region.

[Ramos] Thus far we have been sending practically 53 percent of our overall production in the province to this region.

[Castro] The subject of construction is very important. How is it going in Pinar del Rio? What is your evaluation of construction in Pinar del Rio; that is....

[Ramos, interrupting] As I see it, a comprehensive rectification effort is being made in the construction area. There are examples showing that they are doing things faster and better. They are saving construction materials; they are using 418 kg of concrete per meter of construction, which is still high and could be further reduced. They are using lumber at 54 [words indistinct]; they should do better. The contingent is using it at the rate of 78 [not further explained]. They are also reducing the use of steel rolls. Thus, substantial savings have been made. This year, they needed 73,000 tons of cement. The Construction Ministry allotted them 66,000 tons and they are completing projects having used less than 54,000 tons.

Nevertheless, the goal was met. Frankly, to me it seemed very difficult to meet. The extraordinary thing is that it was done in 4 months. In other words, this terminal was completed in approximately 17 or 18 weeks. Working at this pace, the country will make progress. But if you take 3, 4, or 5 years in building a terminal, there is no progress. Working at this rate, there is progress. This gives the people, revolutionaries, militants, and communists confidence in what socialism can do. [applause] This is being shown by the work of the other contingents, such as the comrades who are working on the refrigeration centers, on the pre-university schools in the south, on the groundbreaking for the porcine centers, [passage indistinct], on the road to the Mariel Port, on the railroads, or those who do the groundbreaking for the markets, [passage indistinct]. [applause] The country is making progress.

The importance of the Blas Roca contingent is not the speed at which they work, but the example they have set for all construction workers. Thanks to the efforts of this contingent, which was the first one, today there are over 60 contingents. Thanks to their effort and ideas, some industries have [word indistinct]. In some cases, the ideas of the contingent have been fully applied. In other cases it is more difficult, just some of the contingents'

ideas have been applied. Wherever those ideas have been applied, the results are spectacular. [passage indistinct]

You have just completed a labor feat. This Puente Nuevo bus terminal [passage indistinct]. This project has another name. It is called a labor feat. It does not mean we actually call it that, but we should always remember it as one. We thank you comrades. [applause] We thank you for the motivation this project has been for everyone. I think that the other projects will continue making progress at this rate. There is something that our people will always thank the Blas Roca contingent for, more than for its feats, or for the tens of projects which are quickly and well built; what our people and revolution will always be thankful for will be for its example. [applause] Socialism or death! Fatherland or death, we shall win. [applause]

[Francisco Garcia Ferrer, PCC first secretary of Holguin Province] Well, I was saying that a great effort has been made regarding investments in general. We have promoted the leading investments in the province and the plan now stands at [words indistinct]. Despite the well-known limitations we have in Holguin Province regarding cement transportation, I believe we have had a good response. We can mention the enlargement of the bathroom furniture factory, an important project which was finished and which is already operating. It is now already producing designs.

[Castro] Including the bathroom tile factory.

[Garcia Ferrer] We have completed the setting up of the bathroom tile factory and we now have to put it into operation. As you know, this factory will double our production of bathroom tiles. It will be capable of producing 1.3 million square meters of tiles. It has been completed and should be in operation during the first quarter of 1990—that is, the oven and the roller.

As you know, we now have two contingents in the province. The CAME No 1 fulfilled its production plan for this year, which was 17 million. It actually completed 19 million. [figures as heard]

[Castro] CAME No 1.

[Garcia Ferrer] CAME No 1, which we discussed....

[Castro, interrupting] How much production are you getting per peso invested?

[Garcia Ferrer] The production cost per peso stands at 72 centavos. Earlier, it stood at 2.70 pesos by the third contingent....

[Castro, interrupting] The third contingent had a 2.70 pesos production cost.

[Garcia Ferrer] After the contingent....

[Castro, interrupting] And now it is 72 centavos. What other contingent do you have?

[Garcia Ferrer] Felton.

[Castro] Felton. How is Felton working?

[Garcia Ferrer] Felton is working well.

[Castro] What is the production cost per peso?

[Garcia Ferrer] The production cost now stands at 86 centavos.

[Castro] What was the production cost earlier?

[Garcia Ferrer] I believe it stood at 1.70 pesos.

[Castro] 1.70.

[Garcia Ferrer] Felton has also completed its production plan in setting up a thermoelectric plant, the first line of which will be completed next year and will go into operation in 1991.

[Castro] [Words indistinct] we are going to try to build the first cement plant there through our steelworking industry. The Ministry of the Steelworking Industry is already working on this project at full speed. We are going to build one that will produce 300,000 or 250,000 [measurement not specified], because I believe we are already manufacturing a number of industrial items and have nothing else to do. Who is going to turn to other sources to buy a cement plant? How much would all that cost? In the meantime, we are going to increase our production. Here in Havana we have increased it by approximately 400,000 through two or three plants. We must adopt every measure to save cement. We were also hoping to increase production in the Karl Marx plant. We will try to have our steelworking industry make every effort to enlarge it. Yet, this will be something for the future. What we are doing in Holguin is more important.

[Garcia Ferrer] We are also working on the cylinder factory in Banes.

[Castro] I was going to ask you about that. How is it going?

[Garcia Ferrer] We are erecting the structure. We are working, Commander, with the idea of putting the factory into operation by July, by the 2d half of 1990.

[Castro] During a meeting of the steelworking industry, we were studying all this and....

[Garcia Ferrer, interrupting] We have assigned priority to this project.

[Castro, continues] It has promising prospects because it will supply all the cylinders for our agricultural equipment. We are also going to transfer to there the plow disk factory of Guira. [passage indistinct] We are also going to try to make rice combines there in your province. Third, the merger of enterprises related to the (Fregat) equipment will play an important role there in Holguin. The union will manufacture components for the (Fregat) equipment. What is the name of that union?

[Second unidentified speaker] Union of Agricultural Equipment.

[Castro] What?

[Second unidentified speaker] Union of Agricultural Equipment.

[Castro] Union of Agricultural Equipment. Holguin Province will play a decisive role in this [word indistinct]. We must also say here that half of the number of residents Moa had 10 years ago are now erecting more buildings than what were used to be built 10 years ago. This is important. Work is underway at the Moa nickel factory. The problem is that we need that nickel for the stainless steel manufacturing factory we are building in Las Tunas. This plant is designed to produce 150,000 tons of stainless steel and will require at least 12,000 or 13,000 tons of nickel. To obtain this nickel it will be important for the Che Guevara and the other factory to operate efficiently. Paquito, what can you tell us about tourism?

[Garcia Ferrer] Well, Commander, regarding tourism I can say that we are about to complete the hotel which has thus far been known as the North Atlantic Hotel.

[Castro, interrupting] Very well.

[Garcia Ferrer, continues] It will have 233 rooms. We planned and were committed to completing it in December, but we had some problems regarding supplies.

[Castro, interrupting] Then, we are going to miss the high tourism season.

[Garcia Ferrer] But we can finish it in January. We still need the equipment for the swimming pool which we were told will arrive on 15 December. This is why we cannot finish the swimming pool. The air conditioning equipment and the restaurant are two basic sectors that are still needed. Regarding sanitary ware, we will be receiving part of the hardware supplies this week, that is, what we expected to receive early in November will be just arriving in December. Thus, we are postponing our expected completion date to January.

[Castro] Is that all you are building now in Holguin Province?

[Garcia Ferrer] Well, we are also enlarging (Don Lino), which consists of 33 rooms; and Los Cocos, which is a small motel of 40 rooms in Holguin. Every component used in this construction is entirely Cuban. We also have the Gaviota Hotel, which we discussed earlier, and which will have 110 rooms.

[Castro] The contingent that is building [passage indistinct]

[Alfredo Jordan Morales, PCC first secretary of Las Tunas Province] We have practically completed 50 percent of the civil engineering portion, Commander. We have worked very hard and we are getting ready to build the roof and to complete the civil engineering portion.

[Castro] How is the bottle factory?

[Jordan] It is very good. It is very nice.

[Castro] How is the metal frame factory?

[Jordan] Well, the metal frame factory had a few problems in recent days owing to the [word indistinct], but we have been meeting our plans in general, we have met the demand.

[Castro] How are....

[Jordan] The rolling mills?

[Castro] The what?

[Jordan] The rolling mills.

[Castro] The rolling mills.

[Jordan] Well, as we committed ourselves with you, on 26 July we completed [words indistinct] rolling mills. This year we had to....

[Castro, interrupting] Are they operating well, without problems?

[Jordan] Yes, Commander, especially the rolling mill No 1, which has already produced 22,000 tons of reinforced rods. Rolling mill No 2 has produced some 3,000 tons because we had some problems stemming from transportation of....

[Castro] Billets.

[Jordan] Billets. In recent days, we received 1,000 tons. We hope to reach approximately 30,000 tons.

[Castro] Well, if we had to buy those two rolling mills, they would have cost 40 million [currency not specified]. The steelworking industry, with the cooperation of Santa Clara and others, has manufactured them and they cost us $1.5 million each in components. That is the advantage of building factories.

We were discussing whether we should build the container factory there or in Matanzas. Next year we might have the most important concrete factory like the one in Holguin, perhaps we might have that one (? of batteries) or others. The question is that you could have an important factory. And what you are going to do in Bayamo is very important. I do not know how many people in the country know that virtually overnight you have built a gigantic factory of irrigation equipment, which will produce irrigation equipment numbering 1,500. The equipment will use Cuban-made engines. Tell me, Lage, what is the cost in convertible currency of each irrigation equipment?

[Marcos Lage, minister of the steelworking industry] Commander, each equipment costs now around $1,000. It used to cost $600, but it has gone up a little, because prices go up.

[Castro] $1,000 for each irrigation equipment.

[Lage] $1,000 per each equipment.

[Castro] Do you know the value on the international market of the 1,500 irrigation equipment you are going to make in Bayamo? The value of the equipment you will be making in that little factory will be nearly $100 million, between $100 million and $120 million [figures as heard]. That factory began just as a little factory and a fierce struggle had to be waged because there was a lot of resistance. We virtually had to use force to build that factory in Bayamo to give jobs to the people of Bayamo. How many people know this? How many people in the provinces and municipalities know about this?

Like this, there are many things in the steelworking industry. We will be using the first buses next year, buses for city service that will double the per gallon performance of the Hungarian buses we are using now. I believe it is stimulating for the people to know the achievements we are making in the steelworking industry and in other sectors as well. Otherwise, everyone will be just looking at his own problems or misfortunes.

All this is very important at a time when the country may be heading for serious difficulties. What are we doing to overcome these difficulties? What are we doing without worrying if half of the world is sinking? I know that it helps, that it helps very much, I have seen it. I know by experience that it is very important for the party's rank and file to have information on what we are doing. This is the idea I am defending. Go on.

[Jorge Lezcano Perez, PCC first secretary in Havana City Province] A program that has truly boomed is that of construction materials.

[Castro] Explain that, about the program.

[Lezcano] As you know, the country had fallen behind, particulary our province [rephrases] we also suffered the consequences. The investment programs envisages the constructions of 45 new lines plus 5 lines in Havana Province which [words indistinct].

[Castro] [words indistinct] blocks and other things?

[Lezcano] Everything. For instance, in 1987 we produced 11 million cement blocks. We will now produce 55 million. We used to produce 46 million bricks. Our production will now rise to 96 million. Our production of floor tiles has increased from 1.2 million square meters to 2.2 million square meters. Our production of mosaic tiles has increased from .5 million square meters to 2.2 million square meters. We used to produce 1.1 million square meters of door frames and windows; we will now be producing 1.8 million. In past, we did not manufacture small tiles for archways; we are now manufacturing 5 million. We did not produce floor beams either, and our production can now cover 1,000 km. We used to produce 2,400 tons of cement coating paint and now we can produce 7,200 tons. Regarding [words indistinct] roof tiles, our production has increased from 11.5 million 31.5 million. You may thus get an idea of how our production capability of construction materials has increased.

[Castro] We are also working nationwide and one line included at this level is that of plastic tubes for all types of buildings (?having over) four floors throughout the country. We studied what we ought to do, because this was analyzed in our meetings. [words indistinct] tubes for all, tubes for aquaducts; tubes for the sewage system; tubes for irrigation systems; tubes for underground telephone lines; tubes for coaxial cables; these are tubes of asbestos, of [word indistinct], tubes of concrete.

We have seen all our factories and their new capabilities. In our roof tiles factories we are going to increase the production of roof tiles to nearly 15 million square meters; [words indistinct] asbestos cement for batteries, for the hog production industry, for construction and for everything. Thus, the construction material industry has made a colossal effort. More than $100 million has been spent, I am talking of $100 million in hard cash in all these lines that are being assembled throughout the country, without counting the lines that were still in boxes and which we are being assembled now, that is, for tiles, cement mills and all that we are assembling, and some Soviet-made equipment such as these for roof tiles.

We are also working to increase our production of electrical wires for homes by dozens of thousands of kilometers. We can increase it even more.

[Lezcano] For reasons of policy, our hotel construction program does not entail very big figures. We are, however, working now on not less than 10 projects. The Construction Ministry is working on the second Triton Tower; the Blas Roca contingent is working on the five-star Cohiba Hotel; the Caribbean Construction Enterprises Union are building the Plaza, the Sevilla, the Nacional, the Copacabana, an apart-hotel in Santa Maria del Mar; and CUBANACAN [not further identified] is working on the enlargement and remodeling of the Comodoro, on the bungalows that are being built there and the Hemingway Marina. All this gives a total of approximately 5,000 rooms.

[Castro] I do not know how the Cohiba Hotel is going to function, but I have an idea, because there are people here who cannot understand; there are people for whom it is hard to understand that the country needs resources. It needs foreign currency so that we may have food, hospitals, houses, factories, clothes, shoes, jobs; and they think we are doing a terrible thing when we leave one of those hotels unfinished. This is why, for political reasons, we avoid exclusive places both in the capital and elsewhere.

[Lezcano] I want to tell you something: The Construction Ministry plans to erect buildings in Havana City for a total of 160 million pesos this year. By November, it had already completed projects worth more than 161 million pesos, and it may go beyond 170 or 173 million pesos.

[Castro] How much did it build last year?

[Lezcano] Last year it reached 154 million pesos. Additionally, the Construction Ministry workers were scheduled to finish only 45 projects, but they will finish 54 projects. Another major group of builders is that of the mini-brigades. At present, we have 38,000 mini-brigade members. The mini-brigade construction totals 138 million pesos. Thus far [passage indistinct]. We already have 15 contingent groups. All our comrades here, all the contingents [words indinstinct].

[Castro] [3-minute passage indistinct] but by next year we plan to make 200 Cuban buses, and we are working with the idea of making 500 buses by 1991. Our automotive industry has figured out the cost per bus and how we are going to do it. I am taking advantage of Lezcano mentioning the buses, because he is not elaborating on it. This entails a lot of effort and analysis to resolve the problems existing in the capital. One cannot live in the capital, gentlemen, with the number of trips [words indistinct]. It is very important to make it clear and knowing the effort we are making to create the conditions for growing in a number of fundamental areas, not just to grow in any area, but to grow in strategic areas. We want the railway brigade to be reinstated into the railway system next year. We will seek some formulas to find a solution, because we are once and for all going to boost the railway system, we are going to rebuild ....

[Third unidentified speaker] I must tell you, Commander....

[Castro, interrupting] You have one brigade, right?

[Third unidentified speaker] We have two.

[Castro] Two brigades.

[Third unidentified speaker] Let me tell you, Commander, that the situation of the railway system in our province is both the central railroad [changes thought] the central railroad is one of ours, it does not have problems, it is part of what we call the speedway. Regarding the rail lines to Nuevita, Esmeralda, and Santa Cruz; we have to replace an average of 750 sleepers per kilometer, that is, 750 sleepers out of the 1,600 in use per kilometer must be replaced. This is urgent because everything may come to a standstill. We also have to build bridges. I believe that the two brigades should build the railway junction. For our part, we will try, with our own brigade of the sixth ring, to connect with the fourth ring. But, these brigades have to take reinforced equipment for the junction, because the junction is quite old. So the brigades should take reinforcements in the form of trucks, loaders, so that they can go as a contingent.

[Castro, interrupting] Where would they go? To the central station?

[Third unidentified speaker] They would go the railway junction. They would go to the junction, because these lines need maintenance work. It will be virtually a reconstruction effort, but we do not have to build embankments or anything like that. Besides, we have the zeolite factory, which is supplying zeolite to the [word indistinct] that are being built in the province. Finally, Commander, you know that we have a mosaic tile factory that was built there by the Interior Ministry. It consists of 16 presses that can produce 500,000 square meters of mosaic tiles. Our deficit in the construction industry rests precisely with mosaic tiles. That factory was completed 6 months ago and we only need the equipment. [passage indistinct]

[Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, PCC first secretary of Matanzas Province] Regarding investments, we would like to start talking about tourism which I believe [words indistinct]. Then, we have other projects underway, as you know, such as the second stage of the airport—the first stage has been completed—the highway [passage indistinct].

[Castro] The Varadero project alone, how much cement will it take?

[Alvarez] Varadero will take approximately 80,000 tons.

[Castro] Is it going to take half of the cement used by Matanzas Province?

[Alvarez] No. Matanzas will use 250,000 tons next year.

[Castro] What about investments in petroleum?

[Alvarez] Commander, as you know, we completed the second causeway, we have already completed the first islet; we will finish the second islet in December, and the third one, in February. It is already 2,624 meters long. The (Mas Aguiar)....

[Castro, interrupting] The (Mas Aguiar) causeway.

[Alvarez] That is the one in the Bay of Cardenas. The well was already drilled for the (Mas Aguiar). Then, Commander, other topics are related to the construction material industry.

We now have three projects: The mosaic factory was started mid-1989 and we expect to finish by the end of this year or in January next year. This factory will produce 170,000 square meters of mosaic.

[Esteban Lazo Hernandez, PCC first secretary of Santiago de Cuba Province] You may remember that the 35th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks was celebrated in Santiago. At that time, the commander in chief talked about the more than 1,000 projects that

were dedicated there that year. That year our overall investment totaled 164 million pesos. This year our investments will total almost 200 million pesos.

Another program we are promoting is the construction material industry. This is a big program. This year we completed a mosaic factory and a Spanish-type block factory in Santiago de Cuba. A stone grinder facility in Mucaral will produce 150,000 cubic meters. Thus, our province will be able to produce more than 1 million cubic meters of stone. We are also making investments in cement factories, especially in regard to filtration techniques.

Another important investment is the airport. We expect to complete by April the pavement of the 2 kilometer-segment, to be able to close the old one, which will then be rebuilt. By September we expect to have both the old and the new parts completed.

[Castro] That will be an international airport.

[Lazo] That will be an international airport with a 4,000 meter runway. We are also implementing a tourist development program. At present, we have nearly 3,000 builders working on the Santiago Hotel, which will be a five-star hotel with 300 rooms. The 14th floor is already under construction.

[Castro] Are you talking about the hotel where the congress will be held?

[Alvarez] Yes. In addition to this hotel, we are enlarging the Bucanero Hotel, which will have 200 rooms and which we expect to finish during the first quarter of 1990. We are also enlarging the (Manares del Sol) Hotel, which will then have 140 rooms. The first stage will be completed in December. We are planning 120 rooms for the (Casona Dos) and we expect to begin in December. Next year, we expect to complete the Sevilla Hotel, which will have 200 rooms. We plan to enlarge the Leningrad Hotel, and the (Casona Dos) [words indistinct].

[Announcer] Finally, commenting on these subjects, our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro said:

[Castro] Our country has been struggling under these conditions. As you can see, we have been making a great effort to secure resources. To save cement meant to create resources. To increase the construction of concrete from 28 cubic meter per cubic meter of lumber to 40, 50, 70, 80, 90, 100 cubic meters means to save lumber. We have been doing this. We have been saving, saving, and saving by taking advantage of what was being thrown away, of what was being squandered. Thus, we have been looking, looking, and looking for these resources to see not only how the economy keeps its pace but it also develops, because our problem does not rest with just surviving 1, 2, or 3 years but with building our future, with creating prospects, with developing the country.

From a minimum of reserves, which is the only thing the country has, we have been drawing a little for this, a little for that; every time we had a super critical situation. We did that not only to survive, because just to survive is not worthwhile. I believe that even in a special period, if I am asked what we should do, I would ask how can we develop in a special period? Perhaps what we are doing today with a bulldozer we may have to do it with our bare hands. Today we need machinery and fuels because what we should never do is resign ourselves to sacrificing our development. You can see the effort we have made, that we have recovered our water management resources. Even though you have outlined them here, the people do not know what projects we have been undertaking despite such a tight situation.

Now, another front we are developing and where we have rather promising prospects for our country is the biotechnology and the pharmaceutical industry. We are seeking to become a great power in the production of medicines, as well as, a power in the area of biotechnology, in the manufacturing of medical equipment. We could have also made some more progress in electronics, in one of its fields, because we started it more than 20 years ago. We are also going to develop in the electronic field. Yet, it is in the area of biotechnology where we have our best prospects. [passage indistinct] in which we are working and we are working at full speed in all this. It would theoretically be impossible to work on a plan when one does not have the funds to guarantee the items you will have to buy during a year. This is impossible. If someone looks for an economist after doing this, he will just have to shoot himself, that is, the problem is unsolvable. The difference for revolutionaries is that they do not shoot themselves. Instead, they start thinking, thinking, and struggling until a solution is found to the problem. You can see how we are working, whether we are working at full speed, whether we are desperate [words indistinct].

Antigua and Barbuda

Diplomatic Relations Established With USSR

FL0801135790 Bridgetown CANA in English 2226 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Jan 5, CANA— Antigua and Barbuda and the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations effective on Friday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced.

"The establishment of diplomatic relations was guided by their willingness to develop relations of friendship and co-operation on the basis of the principles of equality of rights, non-interference into internal affairs of states and respect for independence," the release added. It added: "Territorial integrity and national sovereignty were also motivating factors which led to the establishment of diplomatic relations."

The statement said the relations will be at non-resident ambassadorial levels.

Opposition Leader Criticizes U.S. Role in Panama

FL0501142790 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] There has been little reaction by Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] countries to the arrest of General Manuel Noriega, but the head of Antigua and Barbuda's opposition has sharply criticized the U.S. role in the affair. United Democratic Party leader, Dr. Ivor Heath, calls it a violation of international law against a sovereign country. Dr. Heath said the United States set a dangerous precedent and expressed the view that it would be sensible for Mr. Noriega to be tried in his own country. He also accused the United States of a double standard in its foreign policy.

Barbados

Power Company To Upgrade With Overseas Funds

FL0801154990 Bridgetown CANA in English 1751 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 6, CANA— The Barbados Light and Power Company is to borrow Bds 54 million dollars (one Bds dollar = 50 U.S. cents) to finance the purchase of two power generators. The funds will be provided by the Danish Export Finance Corporation in Copenhagen, the Nordic Investment Bank in Helsinki and the Commonwealth Development Corporation in London.

The company said the projects are necessary to meet the growing demands for electricity in Barbados, and to maintain system reliability. The company said it will purchase a 12,500 kilowatt diesel generator for Bds 40 million dollars and a gas turbine generating unit with a capacity of 13,250 kilowatts for Bds 16 million dollars.

The Barbados Light and Power Company has already signed an agreement with Asea Brown Boveri of Sweden for the gas turbine.

Dominican Republic

Asylum Not Requested by Noriega Family

FL0601164590 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1608 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] The secretary of state of foreign relations has said the relatives of General Manuel Antonio Noriega have not requested political asylum in the Dominican Republic. He also said the country will recognize the government of Guillermo Endara in the next few hours.

Joaquin Ricardo was interviewed after a report on international television affirmed that Mrs. Felicidad de Noriega, wife of the ousted Panamanian general, had left the Cuban Embassy in Panama. The report indicated that Noriega's wife, dressed in red, had boarded a jet with an unknown destination. The lady, accompanied by two single daughters and by another who is married to the Dominican Juan Beauchamps, son of General Juan Rene Beauchamps Javier, sought diplomatic protection after the U.S. invasion in Panama.

Haiti

Government Makes New Electoral Calendar Public

FL0801163790 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The Haitian Government on 5 January made public the text of the electoral calendar submitted by the members of the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP]. This text, presented with an introduction signed by Minister of Information, Culture, and Coordination Rosemarie Nazon and Justice Minister Augustin Romain Ceme, bears the signatures of the nine members of the CEP.

There is, however, a detail that has attracted many people's attention: Three of the nine CEP members signed this document with reservations.

The text of the revised electoral agenda and calendar is as follows:

From October 1989 to January 1990, the CEP members are working hard to set up the central office and the Departmental, Communal, and Local Electoral Offices, or BED's, BEC's, and BEL's, and issue the electoral law.

From February to mid-April 1990, there will be voter registration.

On 29 April 1990, there will be Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections [Casec] elections and elections for magistrates [communal].

The first round of the legislative elections to elect senators and deputies will be on 22 July 1990, and the run-off elections for these positions will be on 12 August.

The first round of the presidential election will be on 28 October 1990, and the run-off will be on 25 November 1990.

The CEP press release is signed by CEP President Louis Antoine Auguste; Vice-President Gabriel H. Augustin, with reservations; Secretary General Jean Gerard Pierre, Treasurer Jacques Jovin; member Pauris Jean-Baptiste; member Archange Leon; Joseph Lesperance, with reservations, while awaiting the appointment of the members who are to execute the calendar; Rony Durand, with reservations while awaiting the appointment of the members who are to execute the calendar; and member Max Lelio Joseph.

Thus this communique of the text of the electoral agenda and calendar bearing the date 27 December 1989 and made public last Friday [5 January] evening, was signed by the nine members of the CEP. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Recalls Avril's Promise of Elections

FL0801174890 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Excerpts] [First announcer] U.S. Ambassador Adams has, for a third time, recalled the promise General Avril made to hold free elections in Haiti. The general is to relinquish power to a civilian government before long. The U.S. ambassador spoke yesterday, while visiting a number of health service centers established for the population in Cite Soleil.

[Second announcer] [passage omitted] In his speech, the American ambassador said there could be no success without collaboration, an idea the ambassador might have obtained from the proverb that says "one cannot eat okra using a single finger." This collaboration is what allows (Isaac), (Chapi), and other health centers in Cite Soleil to provide health care for area residents and to fight AIDS. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Adams said, furthermore, that the United States is not indifferent to what is going on in Haiti. That is why they would like to do more for Haiti. Ambassador Adams called on the Haitian people to get together and set aside the idea contained in the proverb that says "each firefly lights its own way." Ambassador Adams added that it is in this spirit of togetherness that, come what may, there must be democratic elections in 1990, as the Haitian Government has promised. [passage omitted]

We remind listeners that approximately 50-60 percent of the financing for the social-medical complex in Cite Soleil comes from the United States Agency for International Development. The rest of the money comes from Canada, Belgium, and the Haitian Government. This complex provides health services to 150,000 Cite Soleil residents.

[First announcer] Ambassador Adams' statement in Cite Soleil yesterday regarding the free elections Gen Avril has promised for 1990 is not something new. The ambassador first talked about this matter in the United States, before arriving in Haiti. Next, he talked about it at Mais Gate Airport in Port-au-Prince upon arriving in Haiti on the evening of 24 November. The military government did not like the 24 November statement, and decided to postpone the ceremony at which the ambassador was to have presented his credentials to the Haitian Government. [passage omitted]

Now Al Adams has again made this statement, at a moment when the general-president is extensively touring the provinces. The president has scheduled, several weeks in advance, a number of tours. A great deal of money is being distributed all over. After Les Cayes, Port-Salut, Jacmel, Hinche, and Gonaives, tours are now being planned for Cap-Haitien, Fort Liberte, Jeremie, and other places.

In Jacmel, a few small organized groups were heard yelling "long live Gen.Avril for 5 years" and in Gonaives, "for 10 years." The general, however, barely touched on elections in his speeches. The speeches were mostly about a fuzzy program his government has for the people, such as providing jobs for everyone and promises to return to all the places he has visited.

Avril, Entourage Depart for Taiwan 7 January

FL0801173190 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 0945 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Prosper Avril, head of the military government, left yesterday as scheduled for the Republic of China on an 8-day trip at the invitation of the Taiwanese Governnment. Fritz Romulus, minister of interior and national defense minister, will be acting head of government during Prosper Avril's absence.

The following people are among the delegation that left Haiti yesterday for China: Marie-Ange Avril, wife of the chief of state; Prosper Jr, (Carine), (Gregor), and Philippe Avril, the president's children; Yvon Perrier, minister of foreign affairs and worship; Franck Paultre, minister of economy and finance; Wilner Francois, minister of agriculture, natural resources, and rural development; Yves Massillon, chief of protocol; Brigadier General Andre Jean-Pierre and his wife Eugenie Jean-Pierre; Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre [former, controversial, information and coordination minister], advisor to the president of the Republic; Antonio (Jean-Poix), also an advisor to the president; Colonel (Smyth Medor), who is the delegation's doctor; Colonel Henri Robert Augustin, security officer; Lieutenant Colonel (Serge Bourdeau), security officer; Haitian Navy Lieutenant Paul Francois Alexandre; Captain Jean Thomas Cyprien; Sub-Lieutenant (Delius Joseph); Adjutant (Meradieu Faustin) as aides-de-camp; Sergeant Major Joseph Heubreux; Michele Simeon [wife of former economy and finance minister Jacques Simeon], companion of Marie-Ange Avril; Gisele Augustin, secretary; and Judith Brossard, press attache. The delegation is made up of a total of 28 people.

The absence of the ministers accompanying the president will be compensated for as follows: Michel Bonnet will be interim foreign minister; Dr Serge Pinthro will be interim minister of economy and finance; and engineer Franck Cave will be interim minister of agriculture, natural resources, and rural development.

Gen. Avril's visit to Taiwan will end on 15 January. No details as to the reason for the president's visit to Taiwan have been made public.

The delegation left Haiti yesterday for Taiwan via Miami and Los Angeles. In Miami, Gen. Avril's first stop, Haitian demonstrators awaiting him got into the

airport. One of them went so far as to attack Gen. Avril. Federal security agents and the FBI came to President Avril's aid. [passage omitted]

Chamber of Commerce Issues Statement

FL0801140790 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Excerpt] For the second time in less than 4 months, the Haitian Chamber of Commerce and Industry denounces the economic policy of General Avril's government, which continues to destroy the nation. We received today a written statement issued on 4 January, in which the Chamber of Commerce and Industry says it remains faithful to its philosophy and its statutes, which say that it must stay out of politics. Nevertheless, whenever the national interest is threatened, the Chamber of Commerce is obliged to intervene.

The Chamber of Commerce considers itself once again obliged to speak up and forcefully denounce a situation that could continue to (?cause) the nation's economy (?trouble) at its very foundations—that is, could rip out the foundations of the nation's economy.

The economy continues to deteriorate, and this deterioration exposes the Haitian people to the possibility of a social upheaval that not even the most pessimistic (?could have anticipated).

The Chamber of Commerce says that in its first statement, issued on 27 September, its complaint was based on patriotism and on the experiences men and women in Haiti (?have had) regarding the promotion and continued existence of national values. Thus, it had denounced, before the nation and the government, all the harmful effects that could result from the application of a number of fiscal (?and) financial measures recommended by the International Monetary Fund. The Chamber of Commerce says it would have preferred to have been mistaken about the dangers it had foreseen. Unfortunately, today's brutal reality, which is throwing Haitian society into ever deepening despair, shows that the crisis has indeed increased, and confirms what they themselves foresaw long ago, what they told the government and the Haitian people could happen.

The situation is today extremely serious and in fact, unparalleled. The exchange value of the gourde, which used to be 5 gourdes to the dollar, dropped to 6 and ½ gourdes to the dollar and is today at 8 gourdes to the dollar, or some 60 percent.

Also, there has been a 40 percent increase in prices in general for products here in Port-au-Prince, and this increase is even greater in the provinces. Meanwhile, there is black marketeering in essential products. There is malevolence. The prices of sugar, cement, and flour and other such products are being manipulated, to the point where people cannot buy these products.

The factories are having difficulty finding raw materials. Also, contraband became institutionalized when the government decided to create the General Supply Services. The members of the Chamber of Commerce had warned the government and the nation that this could happen. Despite the fact that the Chamber of Commerce offered to collaborate with the authorities and made suggestions, no one ever payed any attention to it. On the contrary, they sought to put its suggestions to a different use, to carry out other kinds of activities—activities in the interest of individuals and groups.

Thus, says the Chamber of Commerce, the authorities tried to take measures involving salaries that had no effect. These things were not at all in keeping with the suggestions made by the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce says that what it wanted was for the government to institute proper control in the government enterprises, for the government to manage these enterprises properly; and for the government to put an end to the disorder within the government apparatus, where there are too many irregularities and too much waste.

Also, the government invited the Chamber of Commerce to become a member of the Mixed Consultative Committee, which has no decision making power. The Chamber of Commerce says their recommendations have never been applied concretely. [passage omitted]

Ministry of Agriculture Begins Restructuring

FL0501195990 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Excerpts] What good does the Ministry of Agriculture do Haiti? What good will it ever do Haiti if agriculture has no place in the orientation of Haiti's governments—even when they speak of restructuring? The Ministry of Agriculture stopped its activities, yesterday and today, to effect reforms and to restructure. One of our colleagues went to the Ministry of Agriculture yesterday.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] To conduct an inventory, set up a new administrative system to satisfy the peasants, and reinforce the agricultural districts scattered all over the country, new Minister of Agriculture Wilner Francois has decided to shut down a large portion of Damien, which is the Ministry of Agriculture, on 4 and 5 January.

The new minister (?says he) found the ministry's administration a mess, with nothing in order. In addition to this, the ministry's locale is dusty, filthy, and flame blackened [a wing of the building burned down in 1988]. Minister Francois says most of the agricultural districts have been abandoned to their own devices, with no one to oversee them.

[Francois] Well, we have shut them down for a short while. I could have shut them down for a longer period of time, but because we do not want to totally paralyze activities, we have to make an effort to, in the next 4

days, conduct some inventories of the institution's property, which is scattered about, and set up an administration that will enable us to satisfy the peasants, who are supposed to be the beneficiaries of this institution. [passage omitted]

For example, we found all the agricultural districts, which are supposed to meet the needs of the peasant sector, abandoned. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, is all Damien—are all the agricultural districts—shut down completely, or is it only the administration that is affected?

[Francois] We have not totally shut down all of Damien. Rather, we have sent away the cadres (?who are at fairly low) levels, and we are working with division directors (?and) certain project heads, to round up all the Damien resources that are allegedly scattered about. [end recording]

The minister said that Damien was going to be painted before work resumes on 8 January. Does this mean they are going to put back in operation the part of the building that burned down in 1988?

[Begin Francois recording] [Words indistinct] this will become one of our priorities once I have taken care of the peasants, once I have established a structure for the peasants and I see that they are at least being supported by the technicians I have here who are supporting me—for I am not an agronomist, but a manager. [Words indistinct] recruited men of goodwill who believe in the nation's development based on agriculture, who are helping me technically. Now, I am going to see if I can save this part of the building, which is supposed to be [words indistinct] the country. [end recording]

We remind listeners that all Damien's activities are to resume on Monday 8 January.

Ministry Communique Announces Appointments

FL0801204390 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] A communique from the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination announces that by presidential commission on 29 December, Frantz Gabriel Saint-Louis was appointed Director of Information at the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination; and Pierre-Raymond Dumas was appointed Director of Culture.

Also, the following appointments have been made within the judiciary:

Jacques C. Miot was appointed doyen at the civil court of Saint-Marc.

Louis Alix Germain was appointed doyen at the civil court of Jeremie.

Mosel Constant was appointed examining magistrate at the civil court of Gonaives.

Jean-Yves Delcine was appointed notary for Grand Bois.

Mr Obercio, also known as Robespierre Bell, was appointed notary for Pignon.

Abraham Raymond was appointed notary for Ranquitte.

Rille Mesidor was appointed notary for La Victoire.

Phanor Ornecifort was appointed surveyor for Vallieres, which falls under the juridiction of Fort Liberte.

Phedre Paul was appointed surveyor for Belle-Anse, his area of residence.

Police Seize 800 Kg Cocaine in Jacmel 4 Jan

FL0501175290 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Report by Wilder Thibaud]

[Text] In Jacmel yesterday afternoon, in collaboration with international antidrug police, the Haitian police seized an airplane containing 800 kg of cocaine and arrested three Americans and three Colombians.

An airplane bearing the number (?Y-20-109) flying from Colombia landed at the Jacmel airstrip on 4 January. There were 40 sacks of cocaine aboard, with each sack marked 20 kg.

Narcotics Service agents had been in place in Jacmel since morning. According to our information, three Americans had arranged for the unloading of these drugs. We were not able, however, to learn the identity of the three Americans because they were in negotiations with two American Drug Enforcement Administration agents.

The Narcotics Service apprehended three Colombians on this airplane. Lieutenant Jackson Joanis, who is in charge of public relations for the Narcotics Service, said that this airplane was scheduled to land at 0900. For this reason, the Narcotics Service arrived in Jacmel on 3 January.

The three Americans, who were to rendezvous with the three Colombians, were already in place. All six of these men are in the custody of the Narcotics Service. They are: Jorge aka El Callado Alisa, Ricardo Alfonso, Manzales Porres Pedonel, Pedro, aka Peter Malbosa, Michael Lormon, and Ricardo Alfonso Nel.

Jacmel Justice of the Peace Fente Prosper wrote up the official report in the presence of the military authorities from the Department of the Southeast and a few high-ranking Narcotics Service officials. The men have been taken to the capital, Port-au-Prince.

Trinidad and Tobago

Government Budget Passes House; Goes to Senate

FL0801153790 Bridgetown CANA in English
1843 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 6, CANA— The government's TT 7 billion dollar budget was passed on Friday [5 January] night by the House of Representatives after a stormy debate. In winding up debate Friday evening, finance minister, Selby Wilson said the two opposition parties represented in Parliament failed to suggest alternative measures to the government's fiscal policies.

Wilson defended the recently introduced 15 percent Value Added Tax (VAT) system. "You cannot simply take the position that if you got [words indistinct] dollars a month off your taxes, and you spend that, you would spend it all on vatable goods and, therefore, you end up a loser," Wilson said.

Wilson also defended the national debt, accusing the former People's National Movement (PNM) administration of bad economic policies. Wilson also reacted to the PNM accusations that government's measures would contract the economy. He outlined a list of economic indicators which, he said, [words indistinct] improvements.

Prime Minister A.N.R Robinson in his presentation, said Trinidad and Tobago would soon have to look beyond its own national economic boundaries and toward a Caribbean Community common market in 1993.

Debate on the 1990 budget begins in the Senate on Tuesday.

Further Results of U.S. Activities in Panama

Asylum Granted To 8 Panamanians

PA0701033490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0242 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Jan (EFE) — A group of eight Panamanian citizens and their relatives, who had remained as refugees at the Mexican Embassy in Panama, arrived today in Mexico City on a charter flight, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat has reported.

Among those granted asylum are Guillermo Castro, brother of Nils Castro, acting vice president of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties (COPPPAL), and Doctor Guillermo Castro, a former Panamanian Foreign Ministry official. [Paris AFP in Spanish at 0324 GMT on 7 January in a similar report gives the name of the former Panamanian Foreign Ministry official as Hernando Franco]

In a press release, the Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat adds that using "and according to the international agreements in effect for Mexico and Panama, it is granting the requested asylum."

The note adds that since the beginning of the U.S. intervention in Panama, the Mexican Embassy has fulfilled its responsibilities, and it remains open to "attend to duties of protecting Mexicans and giving asylum to nationals of other countries, according to international law."

The communique states that in the case of Panama, the foreign policy of the Mexican Government has been implemented in "strict compliance to its historic principles and traditions" of nonintervention and self-determination.

The Mexican Catholic Church denied today that the Vatican had exerted pressure on Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega so that he surrendered to the U.S. invading army, as the Mexico City media maintained on 5 January.

Mexican Church spokesman Genaro Alamilla said that, "before paying attention to reports published about the Vatican's pressure on Noriega, it should be taken into consideration that no country offered political asylum to the former Panamanian strongman."

PRI Condemns 'Harassment' of Embassies

PA0501145890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0541 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 4 Jan (EFE)—Spokesmen for the two main Mexican political parties today condemned the "harassment by the U.S. occupation army" of diplomatic missions in Panama.

Blanca Esponada, senator for the government Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), and member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has said that the arrests and seiges by the U.S. Army in several embassies in Panama is a "flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention on Diplomatic and Consular Rights."

Pablo Gomez, deputy for the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), main opposition force in the National Congress, criticized the Vatican for having granted "political asylum" to General Noriega.

He said that Mexico's position regarding the Panamanian Government headed by Guillermo Endara, should be "clear, in not establishing diplomatic relations with a government imposed through a military occupation." [passage omitted]

Group To 'Defend Panama's Sovereignty'

PA0901004290 Paris AFP in Spanish 1446 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Jan (AFP)—Over the past weekend, 200 Mexicans and Latin Americans who live in Mexico, formed the Committee To Defend Panama's Sovereignty. One of the committee's objectives is to "use all the media available to demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. troops' from this Central American country.

According to newspapers, opposition and Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] leaders are part of this committee that will struggle so that "Mexican and Latin American Governments do not establish diplomatic relations with the illegitimate government of Guillermo Endara."

The committee also proposes "to be vigilant of the full respect and compliance of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, stopping puppet governments from making modifications to the spirit or the letter of these treaties."

The document issued by the committee is titled "Panama: The Crime Should Not Go Unpunished" and it notes that it proposes "to help to reestablish constitutional legality in Panama and to hold general elections—without foreign governments' intervention or interference—as soon as possible."

Also, the committee will form the Benito Juarez International Court to judge the U.S. Government "for its intervention of Panamanian territory."

The committee is composed of deputies, senators, intellectuals, and artists.

Hank Gonzalez Appointed Agriculture Secretary

PA0501151190 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Representing President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Government Secretary Fernando Gutierrez Barrios has sworn in Professor Carlos Hank Gonzalez as secretary of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources. He replaces Jorge de la Vega Dominguez, who has been appointed personal adviser to the president.

During the ceremony, the government secretary spoke of the government's recognition of De la Vega Dominguez' work as secretary of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources. Gutierrez highlighted De la Vega's dedication, honesty, and sense of responsibility. He gave a biographical sketch of De la Vega's long political career, which has been characterized by his dedication.

At his first news conference as secretary of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources, Hank Gonzalez spoke of the challenges he will be facing:

[Begin Gonzalez recording] What are the basic challenges that we are going to face? I believe we must avoid having untilled land in Mexico. Currently, for many reasons, there is a great amount of land available for cultivation that is not being planted. We must try to ensure that it is planted; we must work with the peasants so that agriculture will be worthwhile for them. [end recording]

Professor Carlos Hank Gonzalez was secretary of Tourism, and other posts he has held are director of CONASUPO [National Company for Basic Commodities] and governor of Mexico State.

Coldwell Appointed New Tourism Secretary

FL0501175390 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Today, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari appointed Pedro Joaquin Coldwell as new secretary of tourism. He is replacing Carlos Hank Gonzalez, who was named secretary of agriculture and water resources yesterday.

Since the beginning of the current administration, Coldwell had been director general of the National Fund for the Promotion of Tourism (FONATUR). He was born in Cozumel, Quintana Roo, on 5 August 1950.

Among other posts, Caldwell was deputy for the State of Quintana Roo, federal deputy, and governor of Quintana Roo. During his work as governor, he heavily promoted tourism, which enabled this state to place itself as one of the most important tourist spots in the country at the international level.

Governor Not To Use Public Force on Protestors

FL0501173890 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 5 Jan (NOTIMEX)—LA JORNADA newspaper reported today that Guerrero State Governor Francisco Ruiz Massieu promised not to use the public force on protesters. He also gave his assurances that those who were ejected from Taxco's city hall will not be prosecuted criminally.

Last 1 January, antiriot policemen violently ejected from Taxco's city hall a group of protestors of the opposition National Action Party (PAN) who were protesting alleged irregularities in the municipal elections.

The ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) was declared the winner for the mayorship of Taxco on 1 January and, on that same day, the PRI mayor took office. [passage omitted]

Seven Injured in Clash at Ford Motor Plant

FL0801195590 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1851 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Cuautitlan, Mexico, 7 Jan (NOTIMEX)—A confrontation at the Ford Motor plant north of the capital has left at least 7 people injured, reported Security Chief Pedro Landeros. He said that at about 0600, a group of workers—sympathizers of Hector Uriarte, secretary general of the Ford trade union—burst into the plant's installations and attacked the workers there.

For his part, Victor Barreiro, vice president of the Ford Motor Company in Mexico, asked the Labor Secretariat and the Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM) to intervene in order to clarify the events that occurred this morning. Barreiro said the dissident trade union group, comprised by former company employees, was the material and intellectual mastermind of the confrontation.

To avoid new confrontations, the plant suspended the evening shift, which would have started at 1500, because complete security for the workers cannot be guaranteed.

Landeros said that during the confrontation, four workers were injured with firearms and three others were beaten. He said that the problem began on 5 January when the workers protested because they did not receive their Christmas bonus. They wanted to go on strike. However, the CTM would not support their claims but did say they would speak to management, Landeros added.

The Ford plant in Cuautitlan, Mexico State, is located 37 km from the Mexico-Queretaro Highway.

PRD Member Allegedly Murdered by PRI Member

PA0901034990 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Political differences in the State of Michoacan have again resulted in violence. Mr Ignacio Murrillo Guzman, former PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] municipal candidate of the Juan Dacareo municipality, has been murdered.

According to unofficial sources, Murrillo Guzman was shot when he was returning home after finishing his guard duty at the municipal headquarters that had been taken by PRD followers since August. The victim's relatives reported that, according to witnesses, the

former municipal secretary—a PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] member—is the alleged murderer. Michoacan's Attorney General's Office is presently investigating the case.

* Ruiz Massieu Discusses 3 December Elections

90EM0058A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 9, 10 Dec 89

[Report by Jose Manuel Benitez, Carlos Yanez, and Roberto Zamarripa]

[9 Dec, p 3]

[Text] Chilpancingo, 8 Dec—Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu, the governor of the state of Guerrero, stated calmly: Yes, in general the elections were clean.

He indicated, however, that the movement of 30,000 voters to 2,800 polling places in towns with communications difficulties "and a culture that is not, shall we say, political, a very unequal cultural level, shall we say, fomented electoral incidents."

"Are you emphasizing that they were clean?"

"Yes, in general."

In an interview with LA JORNADA the governor of Guerrero stressed that his role is not that of an election authority. "I place myself above specific electoral problems, and in any event my role will be that of arbiter and conciliator."

"Given the violence in Chichihualco and the irregularities that have been denounced, as even PRI has reported the theft of ballot boxes, do you think that the pact for clean elections has been sullied?

"Not in my case, because I didn't sign it...."

"But it was your idea, wasn't it?"

"It wasn't my idea...."

"Well, isn't it in keeping with what you've been talking about?"

"That it is. I thought it was a wise move, and I don't think that the pact has eroded more than expected, because as far as I know, it wasn't an intimidation pact. That would be absurd, a pact that would not allow the parties to fight for their victories."

Anyone who felt that way, he added, had a misconception of the pact. It is actually a sort of letter of intent.

Ruiz Massieu received the reporters on the terrace of his office at the Casa Guerrero. A chill wind, which is unusual for Chilpancingo, was blowing. It did not seem to bother him, nor did the possibility of violence.

"I'm not afraid of violence. I'm definitely not afraid," he underscored.

And while the statements, rallies, and activities of opposition parties lead to sit-ins, skirmishes over takeovers of city halls, short hunger strikes, demands of clean elections, and heated tempers, Ruiz Massieu says in a deliberate tone that "it is no longer usual for there to be confrontation and violence for political reasons."

He commented : "There is not a single political prisoner. In fact, the Executive Branch of which I am in charge issued a frankly innovative decree in a bid for social harmony, and through several procedural mechanisms we enabled the candidate with a criminal record to register and set aside the possibility of criminal prosecution. This is a very concrete gesture. There are no political prisoners, so there are really no grounds for concern other than the heated times of an election."

He asserts that the law and Guerrero's institutions will insure a positive outcome to the elections. "There are legal and political guarantees," he says, "and I think that wisdom lies in finding political solutions on the perimeter of the law and in not lapsing into rigid legalism that suffocates politics."

[10 Dec, p 5]

[Text] Chilpancingo, 9 Dec—Not everyone in PRI is my friend, and not everyone in the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] is not my friend either, said the governor of Guerrero, Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu, in a low voice in explaining his political distance from the ruling party and his appeals for a dialogue.

Such sympathy and affinity make for well oiled relations between the organs of government, above and beyond constitutional obligations. He acknowledges that in Alcozauca the PRD showed "an ability to govern and an understanding of the country's constitutional structure." The outcome at the ballot box there depends "on a few polling places."

He ruled out the possibility of a PRI-PRD two-party system in Guerrero and spoke of a developing multiparty system. The obstacles that PRI represents to democratization here "are its political mentality," its long-time political culture.

He denied that as governor he called the PRD the "party of violence." That was "rhetoric by other parties, not the government's attitude."

"The PRD says it won or has its sights set on victory in 26 municipalities. If this is true, how would you govern with one-third of the city halls in the opposition's hands?"

"I wouldn't even dare say whether this claim of half, one-third, or one-fourth has a basis. I don't have the slightest idea and I wouldn't even dare accept the method with one-third or any other posture," he replied.

"The fact is, however, that I can work with any city hall, no matter what party wins it. In general I will have greater communications with the party to which I

belong, PRI, because we have the same programmatic and ideological background, since there is a principle of universal solidarity among party activists, but this does not mean that we can't work with activists from another party, as we have already proven in Alcozauca with Othon Salazar."

"Will these elections consolidate a two-party system in Guerrero?"

"I don't think so yet. A two-party system, with its various sizes, is not likely as a result of election returns. A fine system of parties, a multiparty system is taking shape, and in every Western democracy, or in whatever country aspires to be one, the highest expression of the idea is not to be seen in elections."

He spoke of the need to strengthen party life, to consolidate its doctrines, and recalled: "I have a great liking for the Popular Socialist Party. It's not a party that has strong grassroots support, but it is a philosophically sound party; that is its contribution to democracy."

He said that his relations with the PRD "have never been bitter." With PRI they are "cordial" in matters of general strategy. Ruiz Massieu then said that "in all political parties there are obstacles to democratization in Guerrero," adding that in PRI "we must all learn to hold elections, learn that we're hastening our democracy, that there's more competition among parties, and that requires a change in the quality of our political culture."

"What are the obstacles in PRI?"

"It's a problem of mentality, I repeat, what could be called an updating of political culture."

He then spelled out the obstacles to democratization in PRI: As long as it does not properly integrate its local factions and undergo a learning process in the methods of partisan electoral struggle, there will be no progress.

As for the debate about Alcozauca, Ruiz Massieu limited it to "a problem of a few polling places," which must be meticulously reviewed by the municipal electoral committee. "If a few polling places are annulled, then PRI loses the victory it says it scored. If they're not annulled, the PRD loses the elections; in other words, it centers on two or three polling places, because the difference is just 200 or 300 votes."

The special interest in Alcozauca derives from the fact that its mayor "is one of the major figures in Mexico's social struggle and one of the major figures in Guerrero, Othon Salazar."

"Is that mountain red?"

"It's a poor mountain. If you mean a socialist mountain because of the election results, it's not. A backward mountain, a poor mountain, yes."

Costa Rica

Arias Calls for U.S. Withdrawal From Panama

PA0701182190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1702 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] San Jose, 7 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias today said that, to contribute to consolidating democracy in Panama, it is necessary for the U.S. troops who have occupied Panama since 20 December to withdraw.

In statements to the press after the inauguration of a housing project, Arias said that "the most pressing matter at this time is for the U.S. troops to leave Panamanian territory so that a system allowing the Panamanian people to choose their own rules through authentic elections can really be implemented."

The Costa Rican Government has not sent an ambassador to Panama, even though it has abided by the Estrada Doctrine by which the state, but not the government, is recognized.

As in the past, President Arias said that the OAS "was incapable" of putting an end to the Panamanian conflict through diplomatic means.

He added that the Panamanian people should take advantage of the current situation to "abolish the Army," because in Latin America, "no matter what excuse may be used," armies are not needed.

The safety of the canal, which on the last day of 1999 will pass into Panamanian hands, can be the responsibility of a continental force, Arias said.

Costa Rica abolished its army in 1949 and since then has been the only country on the continent without one.

President Sends Open Letter to Panamanian People

PA0901004790 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2314 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] San Jose, 8 Jan (DPA)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias sent an "open letter to the Panamanian people" today in which he urges them to struggle for the democratization of the country during the new decade.

The letter, released by the Costa Rican Presidency tonight, states that "in the previous decade many people exchanged violence for peace and freedom."

The letter says that "1989 will be remembered as the year in which tyrants in various parts of the world were overthrown, as the year in which people eager for freedom knocked down walls and barbed-wire barriers."

The letter adds that "the fraternal Panamanian people are experiencing difficult times, but new expectations are being opened."

"We must all help the Panamanians to overcome the challenges they are facing so that historic decisions can be made to change that country's destiny forever."

In his message, Arias says that "only the Panamanian people can determine the kind of future they want, and they will be able to do so when the U.S. military occupation ends, an ending that should come within a strict time limit."

Arias goes on to comment on the case of Costa Rica, which abolished its Army 40 years ago. He proposes that the Panamanian people "abolish their Army to demilitarize the country, which entails a profound decision." The Costa Rican President stressed the need to "change people's mentality once the Army is eliminated as a permanent national institution."

"To buy weapons is to steal from those who are hungry and from those who have nothing to cover themselves with."

Arias reiterates that "rifles must be exchanged for books, tanks for tractors, and soldiers for workers."

In the final part of his open letter, Arias sends good wishes for Panama's future and says: "May God enlighten the Panamanian people and government in this crucial hour of their history."

UN Observer Group Inspects Nicaraguan Border

PA0801033590 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2151 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] San Jose, 7 January (DPA)—Delegates of the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) concluded their first inspection of the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border area today.

The UN officials were accompanied by Costa Rican Civil Guard Director Juan Felix Barrantes, and they visited the banks of the San Juan River, Los Chiles, Penas Blancas, and other locations.

Colonels Purcell and Cayalons (from Ireland), Baseos (from Spain), and Tsikatta (from Ghana) pointed out that they are studying the installation of several checkpoints in strategic places along the border area.

El Salvador

Ponce Admits Soldiers Held on Jesuit Killings

PA0801194090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1802 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chief of the Salvadoan Armed Forces' General Staff, has admitted that 2 officers and 45 soldiers of an elite battalion are "being held in various garrisons of San Salvador" while investigations into the killing of the six Jesuits continue.

According to Ponce, these officers and soldiers of the Atlacatl Battalion were placed at the disposition of the Crimes Investigative Commission, which is studying the case of the Jesuits who were shot to death on 16 November.

Spanish, British, French, and Canadian police agents have participated in these investigations.

These Salvadoran soldiers had searched the Jesuits' residence 2 days before the killing, Ponce told the media today without giving much detail.

However, diplomatic sources stated that the soldiers will be "confined" to their respective garrisons and added that they include "five officers."

Francisco Estrada, a Salvadoran priest who was appointed new rector of the Central American University (UCA), said that "the president's announcement that members of the Armed Forces committed this crime, is an important step very seldom taken in this country." However, this "matter is not over yet."

"What would really be new is for him to say who did it, instead of just saying that it was the Armed Forces," the priest told ACAN-EFE and added that he trusts in the "goodwill and ethics" of President Alfredo Cristiani.

Every source consulted with by ACAN-EFE, whether diplomatic or religious, agreed to say that now it is important for Cristiani to take one step further and mention the names of the people involved in this murder carried out at UCA.

Two domestic servants (a mother and a daughter) were killed together with the clergymen, five Spaniards, including UCA Rector Ignacio Ellacuria, and a Salvadoran.

The U.S. Embassy in El Salvador also congratulated Cristiani today for his efforts to clarify the assassination, as U.S. congressmen and officials of the George Bush administration had asked.

In fact, diplomatic sources commented to ACAN-EFE that beginning on 22 January, the U.S. Congress is to discuss a new $90 million package of economic and military aid to El Salvador that might hinge on the status of the investigations.

The United States has given over $3 billion in military and economic aid to El Salvador over the past decade, and at present it is giving about $1.4 million daily, according to Salvadoran political sources.

UCA rector Francisco Estrada said that Cristiani could take this step because "he is confident that he can control any internal resentment within his government and the Armed Forces."

A similar opinion was expressed by a European diplomat, who told ACAN-EFE that Cristiani is taking a great risk by accusing members of the Armed Forces of this crime. He added: "If he has done this, it is because he feels very confident."

Observers compare the investigation being carried out by the present rightist government to one carried out by the government of Jose Napoleon Duarte, a Christian Democrat, into the 1980 murder of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

Duarte, who turned over power to Cristiani on 1 June 1989, on several occasions attributed the murder of Archbishop Romero to Roberto D'Aubuisson, a present deputy and leader of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance, but the investigations never led to any concrete results.

1989 War Report by Ponce, Vargas, Bustillos

PA0801132390 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The war broke out in El Salvador at the beginning of the decade, and we have concluded the eighties with a year of increased violence, primarily in the capital city. For the men directing the war, 1989 was, despite the lives and damage it cost, a positive year for the Armed Forces.

It is a fratricidal war, a conflict that some people say began because of the injustices in our society. This year marks the 10th year of violence, over which time more than 70,000 persons have died in our fatherland. The year ends with a marked increase in violence, as opposed to past years. It was a crucial year for El Salvador's armed struggle, one when sophisticated weapons were used without regard for the damage that could be inflicted on the civilian population, which has lost a great many things, including the most important of all, their loved ones.

Wealthy and poor Salvadorans alike have paid for the disastrous consequences of this whirlpool of violence. Many people have not truly stopped to think about the peace we all desire. Three ranking military officers express their views on the war's polarization. Two of them, Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chief of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Col Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, commander of the 3d Infantry Brigaded based in San Miguel, describe 1989 as a violent, yet positive year.

[Ponce] "The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] made an effort to destroy the country's democratic system. The FMLN has attempted to establish terrorism to bend our people's resolve and democratic nature. The FMLN has waged an all-out attack, an aggression."

In 1989, Colonel Ponce stressed, the Army carried out five nationwide campaigns, seven major operations, seven minor operations, and 29 special airborne operations, which allowed the Army to stem the progress of

five FMLN offensives, the first one in January, one in March, one in June, another in September, and the one last month, which had the greatest consequences.

The Army admits that 1,079 soldiers were killed and 1,908 wounded. The FMLN suffered, according to the same report, 3,697 casualties, and 147 fighters have presented themselves at various military garrisons and have returned to civilian life. The report also states that the Army seized 2,298 weapons of various caliber from the rebels.

For Ponce, the negative aspects that affect the country's current situation are foreign ideology-expanding factors.

[Ponce] "The other negative aspect is the expansionist effort of the American dictators Ortega and Castro, who are becoming isolated around the world. However, they are pushing useful fools like the FMLN terrorists into actions like what we experienced beginning 11 November."

Meanwhile, in the eastern part of the country, one of our most constructive areas, the zone's military chief has given assurances that in evaluating 1989, two levels must be taken into account—the quantitative and qualitative levels.

[Vargas] "Concerning the quantitative level, if we look at the cold numbers, I can say that the harassment and attacks in San Miguel have decreased considerably. Speaking in qualitative terms, the result is also favorable because the people have proven that their plan was democratic, that they have no other plan."

However, this democratic society or this democratic plan, Ponce said, has its defects.

[Ponce] "Democracy has a weakness, and that weakness is its impatience. The communists have a virtue, and that virtue is their patience. Impatience versus patience has allowed communism to take three quarters of Europe. It is present in the Horn of Africa and, for the first time in history, there is a Marxist-Leninist plan in continental America, in Managua, Nicaragua."

Vargas said that the path awaiting us is lengthy, but we must follow it because democracy must not be suspended. Peace is not the silence of weapons; peace is economic, political, military, and social peace, he added.

For General Bustillos, whose function as Salvadoran Air Force Commander concludes today, the decisions made during the administration of former President Jose Napoleon Duarte and the current government have not been strong enough to deal with the violence in the country.

[Bustillos] "When you deal with violent people, you have to be strong, not weak or cowering. Gen Eugenio Vides Casanova acted weakly as minister. I regretted this all the time. We would have never had a rebel offensive in El Salvador if we had had a courageous and determined High Command that coped with the problems, as they should have in a country full of violence.

"I think that both the High Command and the president must be strong and that they have a right to be. They have the right to be strong because this is a legal government."

[Reporter] "Are they strong?"

[Bustillos] "They are not."

Bustillos said that the violence has been regrettable because the FMLN has said for many years that they have been seeking dialogue and negotiation as a means to incorporate themselves into the Salvadoran people. He added, however, that the evidence is clear and that there is no mistaking it. The Armed Forces would not have survived without Air Force support, despite the sacrifice of the infantry. He added that, to eliminate the FMLN, other pressures and the help of institutions that have been contributing toward the government's constitutional mandate are necessary.

[Bustillos] "Regrettably, the church is led by Archbishops Arturo Rivera y Damas and Gregorio Rosa Chavez. I think they are wrong. Sadly, these two gentlemen are wrong. No offense against the Salvadoran people is meant, but the archbishops used them as dupes. The way these bishops see the dialogue and negotiation entails only death. This is why I say the two bishops are wrong. They are poor church representatives."

The three Armed Forces officers agree that 1989 was crucial, militarily speaking, and that this year resulted in a great loss of human life and material damage. They said that the Salvadoran people should not now look back to the past, but outline objectives so this decade does not end with the counting of dead or wounded, but with words of peace and development.

Official Sources Report Weekend Casualties

PA0801201090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1822 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Official sources today reported that at least eight people, including soldiers, rebels, and civilians, were killed during clashes between the Army and guerrillas over the past weekend in various points of the country.

Military spokesmen for the 6th Infantry Brigade, headquartered in the eastern Usulutan Department, told ACAN-EFE that two rebels were killed and one wounded during a clash with government troops in San Agustin.

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) reported that the bodies of two guerrillas, who were presumably killed during clashes with the Army, were found by soldiers in the outskirts of Santa Tecla, in the central La Libertad Department.

Coprefa reported that two soldiers were killed during a clash with members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) in Comasagua, about 28 km to the southwest of San Salvador, where a rebel attack on a coffee processing plant was successfully repelled.

It reported that a civilian was killed in the crossfire and that a soldier was also killed during clashes in Zaragoza, south of San Salvador, where two guerrillas were wounded.

The military report stated that 10 rebels were wounded in Tecoluca, San Vicente Department, about 60 km east of the capital, during an armed clash between insurgents and the 5th Infantry Brigade, headquartered in that department.

Three other soldiers were wounded during an FMLN ambush in Guazapa, north of San Salvador, one of the guerrillas' main bastions.

The Salvadoran Air Force this morning bombed rebel positions on the outskirts of Jucuapa, Usulutan Department, but results are not yet available, area residents told ACAN-EFE.

The FMLN this morning harrassed Army positions stationed near Ayutuxtepeque, north of San Salvador, without inflicting any casualties.

Coprefa also reported that the Armed Forces seized from the guerrillas 500 electric catapults, in the northern Chalatenango Department, which the FMLN had used since last year to attack San Salvador garrisons.

Salvadoran Red Cross sources today reported that a 48-year-old woman identified as Maria Luz Lopez was wounded last night when a powerful bomb, which damaged several businesses in San Salvador, exploded.

The bomb was planted in a heavily commercial area of downtown San Salvador causing heavy property losses, according to the owners who provided no specific figures.

This is the fourth dynamite attack on businesses in San Salvador so far in 1990.

The guerrillas intensified their acts of sabotage against the economy, especially against the entire electrical power system, on 2 January when an unilateral military truce they decreed over the Christmas and New Year holidays expired.

Guatemala

Vice President on Recognition of Endara

PA0601174890 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] Guatemala, 6 Jan (DPA)—Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle, acting president during the absence of President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, said that Guatemala has recognized Panamanian President Guillermo Endara's government and has appointed Colonel Hector Rosales Salaverria as ambassador to Panama.

Guatemala had decided to wait in the Panamanian case since its ambassador to the United Nations had voted in favor of that organization's resolution condemning the invasion by the United States.

This will be the second time Rosales has been appointed Guatemalan ambassador to Panama. Rosales was ambassador to Panama during the days of the late General Omar Torrijos, who was a personal friend of his. Rosales, a pilot, also helped organize the Panamanian Air Force.

Honduras

Azcona Notes 'Irregular Situation' in Panama

PA0501192190 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 5 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Tegucigalpa—President Jose Azcona on 4 January said he has yet to make a decision on whether to recognize the Panamanian Government of Guillermo Endara because "an irregular situation still exists in that country."

Nevertheless, he said that "we have not suspended our relations with Panama. When General Noriega was in power we recalled our ambassador (Colonel Rigoberto Lara) for consultations and he did not return."

Azcona indicated that Col Regalado Lara is in prison in the United States, accused of being involved in drug trafficking, but that the Honduran Government maintains a charge d'affaires in Panama.

"In other words, there is no break of diplomatic relations, but I do not think it will be possible to send a new ambassador during this administration," he stressed.

The president cut short the interview he was granting to reporters when he was asked his opinion about General Noriega's surrender to the U.S. troops that invaded Panama.

In previous statements, President Azcona had said he did not believe the Vatican would turn over Noriega to the United States and that the best solution would be to permit Noriega to seek asylum in Cuba, Libya, or any other country.

Spokesman Denies Charge U.S. Arming Contras

PA0501184290 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Jan 89 p 3

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Foreign Ministry spokesman Eugenio Castro Claramunt on 4 January described the Nicaraguan Government's charge that the United States is arming the contras in Honduras as "absurd."

The official said such a charge makes no sense because the Honduran authorities sponsored the creation of the UN Observer Group in Central America, ONUCA, which is in charge of preventing weapons from being supplied to armed groups in the region.

He said that the charge is illogical because at no time will Honduras be used to carry out any aggression against a sister republic.

"For these reasons, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's charge cannot be true," the spokesman said.

Castro Claramunt added that most of the counterrevolutionaries in Honduras are disabled or wounded, and they are not thinking about receiving weapons or continuing the fighting.

The Foreign Ministry has not received an official protest from Nicaragua and if this were to occur, Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras would answer it and perhaps ask the ONUCA to confirm or deny the charge.

Panama Envoy Waits for Instructions From Endara

PA0801001490 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Panamanian ambassador to Honduras Carlos de Diego has continued to perform his diplomatic duties while waiting for instructions from the new government headed by Guillermo Endara.

With his customary tact, the professional declined to comment on the capture of General Manuel Antonio Noriega by U.S. authorities.

He justified his silence by saying that he is not authorized to make any comments in that respect because he does not have official information from his country's authorities.

"All I can say is that I will continue to perform the duties inherent to my office until I receive new instructions," he said.

It was learned that several Panamanian ambassadors in various countries have already begun to tender their resignations to allow Guillermo Endara to decide whether he wishes to remove or keep them in their respective offices.

Honduras does not have an ambassador in Panama in light of the fact that Colonel Rigoberto Regalado Lara, who was the ambassador to Panama, was removed from office for involvement in drug trafficking.

For that reason, Honduran Consul Francisco Bulnes is in charge of the diplomatic functions in that country.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Latin American Role

PA0801122190 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Commentary by German Allan Payet]

[Text] The United States is willing to take charge of everything in Latin America by playing the roles of policeman and judge. In fact, the only thing it refuses to do is to take care of our poverty. On the contrary, based on our poverty it subjects our people to all kinds of pressures and humiliations. In other words, it is willing to do everything except help us overcome the overwhelming foreign debt problem, as it is the largest creditor. It has also not increased the prices of our export products.

It is the empire with its laws and its strength. It is the empire with its capacity to decide by itself the course of action which these countries must follow. Without a doubt, we have returned to the old colonial times, which the Kennedys had started to break down with a policy of more respectful and humane Latin American relations.

The unfortunate thing about this whole situation, which is not new but which is presented to the Latin American peoples in the most brutal and unscrupulous terms, is that there is no alternative. There is no way of escaping this terrible enclosure in which we find ourselves because the American empire has a very long arm and it is the world's greatest power.

This arm does not allow any Latin American country to find solutions outside the empire. Europe itself, including powerful countries like the FRG, the UK, France, and the EEC in general, respond in general terms to the will and desires of the United States. Therefore, there is a certain useless illusion among those who believe that in view of U.S. sanctions we could seek relief in old Europe. That is no longer possible first because it is taken for granted that the third largest world power behind the United States and the USSR is the complex of industries and finances in Europe belonging to the United States, and second because the entire European Continent is being shaken by the hurricane of transformations currently taking place in the Eastern European countries.

As for the present decade, the Europeans will be concerned about their own problems, especially those in the countries that are closer to them. They have the urgent need to contribute to rebuilding the economies of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, the GDR, and eventually the USSR itself as well as mysterious Albania. The Europeans will not have the opportunity to pay greater interest to Latin America, except for simple, short-term contracts that may be signed.

After the world was divided into two areas that were clearly delimited, one under U.S. control and the other under Soviet control, the policy observed by each world power regarding less developed nations was the result of

the agreements reached by both world powers. Neither world power could meddle in the other's areas of influence.

This tendency was well marked following the appearance of perestroyka, during which the Soviets have become more interested in their own problems. They have the hope of giving their people the welfare they have been deprived of for over 50 years. This was a period of time in which their economy was bled dry from supporting economic and political tyrannies in the rest of the world, nourished at the expense of the Soviet people themselves. The Soviet leader and creator of perestroyka said in his book that the USSR has no vital interests in Latin America. Mikhail Gorbachev said they do not need Latin American raw materials and that they do not have investments to take care of in this part of the world. The Soviets do not occupy any territory here, and they do not need Latin America as a market for their exports. In other words, we must understand that the Soviets, as an element of pressure against U.S. control, has disappeared, and therefore the entire continent is at the mercy of the United States. There are no alternatives and the ones that may exist, such as rebellions, have a huge cost.

As for our domestic problems, if the United States does not give us substantial aid to help us with our balance of payments and with the general financial stability of Honduras, the problems that will face the next government run by the National Party will be very serious and difficult ones. The problem in Honduras is the lack of dollars or strong currencies. This situation creates a crisis in the importing of oil, raw materials, spare parts, machinery and equipment, medicine, food, and transportation.

Without dollars, paralysis of the economy is evident. There is no doubt that the nation has reached a period of prostration and that inflation will continue to increase and increase at a pace the government will not be able to get under control because of its incapacity to increase production and obtain foreign exchange. Setting up factories and agro-industrial installations take time, and results from this would not be seen before a 3 or 6-year period, even if we started today. It is a period of time that seems short, but is extremely long if we take into consideration our urgent needs and concerns.

In view of this reality, which we cannot escape, all that is left for us is to hope for a certain U.S. generosity. However, above all, we need the unity of the Honduran people to face the serious and overwhelming situation. The upper classes cannot rest long on the belief that the crisis and problems will only fall on the impoverished masses. They will have to make sacrifices and concessions and should at least temporarily be less greedy. We can only commend our spirit to God and almighty Uncle Sam. The former is the creator and owner of souls, and the latter is the lord and master of countries.

Changes in Latin America, Eastern Europe Viewed

PA0601201790 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 2 Jan 90 p 5

[Editorial: "Dictators Are Falling"]

[Text] During the year that just ended, two events took place that are very important for the people's future. One of them is the rebirth of democracy in Latin America, where few dictatorships are still standing.

Stroessner was toppled in Paraguay, although that country's circumstances are not as good as we would like in the area of political rights. Augusto Pinochet was toppled through free and honest elections that proved the people's rejection of his military regime of more than 16 years. Following long years of oppression, the Chilean people have shaken off the tyrant who, using a number of legal tricks is attempting to become a power parallel to the civilian government that Patricio Aylwin will head.

There is a legal principle: "Laws are taken apart just as they are put together." Pinochet's legal apparatus must be broken up by the new government if it does not want unpleasant surprises in the future.

Among the Latin American dictators, Manuel Noriega is a separate chapter. This man's fall has established tragic precedents that are worrisome for the Latin American Governments and people. I am referring of course, to the unjustified U.S. invasion, which was perpetrated under feeble pretexts: such as that Noriega is a drug trafficker; he annulled the elections that Guillermo Endara won; it was necessary to guarantee the lives of American residents in that country; and also to guarantee the fulfillment of the Torrijos-Carter Panama Canal treaty.

The truth is that this invasion is among the many U.S. interventions in Latin America, including Honduras, where in 1905 the U.S. carried out the first of five invasions over a 20-year period.

What happened in Panama is totally unjustified. The incident violates the principles of international law, the cornerstones of which are nonintervention in the internal affairs of other states and people's self-determination.

Who can guarantee that the action in Panama will not be repeated in another Latin American nation with the United States using the hackneyed excuse of protecting democracy?

The fall of the insolent Noriega has left destruction and death in Panama, and the imposition of a president—Guillermo Endara—who may be docile to dictates from Washington. That country's economic and strategic interests may have been the reason for the invasion.

The other event, which has the characteristics of a true revolution, is what is happening in the Eastern European countries. Sunk in terror and oppression for a long time, those people's reaction has been overwhelming. One by one the governments imposed by communism have

fallen. In some cases, they were replaced through direct elections, as in Poland's case. In others, the communist governments have been changed with democratic or simply noncommunist majorities. This has been the case in Czechoslovakia, the GDR, Hungary, and Bulgaria.

It was necessary only in Romania for the people to sacrifice themselves to topple the tough dictator Nicolae Ceausescu who, with his entire family, had made that nation a private freehold. The Timisoara massacre sparked the rebellion. The tyrant and his wife have gone onto another life, executed by a firing squad.

In the end, the people always succeed. What is happening in the socialist world is enlightening. People love freedom and are always willing to sacrifice themselves for it. The political upheaval is universal. In Latin America there are still a few dictators such as Fidel Castro. When will the Cuban people start shaking the ground under him? A lot remains to be seen.

Nicaragua

Radio Says Ortega Accepts Six New U.S. Envoys

PA0801215890 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] The Sandinist government has accepted the arrival of six more officials to reinforce the U.S. Embassy staff. This was promised to U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd during his recent visit to Managua this past weekend.

On a previous trip, Dodd managed to obtain the release of U.S. citizen Eugene Hasenfus from the Sandinists, and now Daniel Ortega has authorized the arrival of additional U.S. Embassy personnel.

Ortega expelled 20 U.S. diplomats after the residence of the Nicaraguan ambassador to Panama was raided by U.S. troops in Panama.

It is possible that Ortega may authorize the arrival of other U.S. officials.

[Begin unidentified spokesman recording] Sources linked to the Nicaraguan Government have announced that the entrance of six new U.S. Embassy officials has been authorized to complete a staff of 15, after 20 were expelled last week as a result of incidents in Panama.

For the time being, the U.S. Embassy will have a staff of 15 officials, 100 administrative and service personnel, and nine Marines. [end recording]

Ortega Says U.S. CIAV Funds 'Insufficient'

PA0801175590 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1557 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Managua, 8 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has said that the $3 million the U.S. Government has earmarked to launch the "CIAV" [International Support and Verification Commission] operation is "insufficient" and "in violation of accords signed by the Central American presidents."

The U.S. State Department on 6 January announced that $3 million will be earmarked to finance the CIAV, which has the mandate of implementing and supervising the demobilization of the contras, who are in Honduras.

Ortega, in one of his election campaign speeches over the weekend, said the area presidents at the Costa Rican summit demanded that the U.S. Government give the CIAV the $67 million earmarked for the contras.

"The United States must give all that money to the CIAV (which is made up of the OAS and UN secretaries general) to fulfill the accords, we made that very clear," the head of the Nicaraguan state noted.

Daniel Ortega argued that the Washington government's concurrent support for the contras and financing of the CIAV "is not in keeping with what we, the Central American presidents, agreed upon because it would not lead to the demobilization (of the rebels)."

Furthermore, Ortega insisted that his government will not withdraw a suit filed against Honduras at the International Court of Justice at The Hague (Holland), because President Jose Azcona has failed to comply with the accords "because he continues to allow the presence of contras in Honduran territory."

General Humberto Ortega, commander of the Nicaraguan Armed Forces, on 6 January revealed that the contras consist of 7,850 armed men.

According to Gen. Ortega, of the 7,850, 3,100 are operating in Nicaragua, 100 in Costa Rica, and the rest in Honduran territory.

Former Contra Commander Returns to Managua

PA0801182790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1702 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Managua, 8 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—A contra group led by former rebel commander Luis Adan Fley Gonzalez, known as "Johnson," returned to Managua today after accepting the demobilization plan agreed upon by the Central American presidents.

Fley Gonzalez arrived in Managua from Honduras through Guatemala, at the head of a group of nine rebels who decided to put down their weapons and participate in the Nicaraguan electoral process ending with elections in February.

Following his arrival at the Nicaraguan airport, the former rebel leader was welcomed by Commander Luis Guzman, who was sent by President Daniel Ortega, and observers from the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV), which is in charge of ensuring the rebel demobilization.

Former Commander "Johnson" was a member of the contra movement for 9 years, and he led approximately 1,050 men.

Two Reservists Reportedly Killed by Contras

PA0801174790 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1611 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] While UNO [National Opposition Union] members prided themselves on being [words indistinct] of the contras during rallies in Acoyapa and Villa Sandino, their allies, the mercenaries, were killing two brave 10th Anniversary Battalion reservists on duty in the Santa Rita area, south of Muelle de los Bueyes. This occurred at 1100 when a group of 30 contras attacked a militia patrol. The clash lasted approximately 30 minutes and the contras fled like cowards into the mountains. Ignacio Cruz Gonzalez and Roger Aleman, both from the Island of Omotepe, lost their lives in this heroic action. Their bodies were taken to Ciudad Rama yesterday and today will be brought to Region 4 where they will receive a Christian burial.

Resistance Leader Says Demobilization Impossible

PA0801214490 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Interview with Commander Carlos, second in command of the Nicaraguan Resistance, RN, central front by reporter Gerardo Sanchez; date, place not given—monitored in progress]

[Text] [Carlos, in progress] ....Sandinist persecutions have increased in all areas, causing more death and destruction to the population. We have seen how the population is suffering from this tremendous Sandinist offensive while trying to finish us off.

[Sanchez] [Words indistinct] Not considering the indiscriminate mobilization of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] forces, such as artillery, tanks, men, and a host of war machinery for a military offensive against you, how have you survived this EPS offensive?

[Carlos] We have always managed to survive by the [words indistinct] we have always maintained. The people know this: We do not even have enough materiel to face the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] with all that they have. In fact, they have taken advantage of the cease-fire to resupply. The Sandinists say that the cease-fire has been lifted, but there has never really been a cease-fire because they have always carried out offensive actions against us. We have tried to avoid clashes as much as possible because we have strived to maintain the agreements, but the FSLN has not done the same.

[Sanchez] What can you tell us Carlos, with respect to the agreements signed by the five Central American presidents in San Jose, about the Nicaraguan Resistance's demobilization on 5 February 1990? What will be the RN's position on that date?

[Carlos] The RN's position is as follows: We cannot demobilize. According to the Sandinist government, they want us to disarm and return to Nicaragua. We, however, cannot demobilize from our territory because we are already in our territory. If we were in a second country we could do it. Those who wanted to demobilize could then do so, and those who wanted to return to their territory would find us here, always ready [as heard]. We are here waiting and hopeful that the FSLN will comply with all the agreements signed; then, we, the RN, will lay down our rifles. Until there are changes in Nicaragua, we cannot say that we are going to lay down our weapons just because the FSLN wants us to because if we did, we would be sentencing our people to death. Our people understand that this problem lies in Nicaragua. We truly hope the FSLN complies with the agreements [words indistinct].

Panama

Former Army Officers Said at Peruvian Residence

PA0901013990 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0033 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 8 Jan (DPA)—A reliable spokesman revealed today that three officers of the army of deposed General Manuel Antonio Noriega sought refuge at the residence of the Peruvian ambassador in Panama City.

According to the report, Major Santiago Gonzalez, chief of the elite Macho de Monte Company, whose members protected Noriega's headquarters, Maj. Edgardo Lopez, former Panamanian Army spokesman, and Maj. Heraclides Sucre of the Battalion 2000, have been at the Peruvian ambassador's residence since 29 December.

Peruvian Ambassador to Panama Mario Castro Arenas recently resigned from his post and is not at the diplomatic residence. It is therefore expected that U.S. Army troops will raid the residence at any time.

U.S. Troops Surround Residence

PA0901021090 Paris AFP in Spanish 0114 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 8 Jan (AFP)—Diplomatic sources have confirmed that U.S. troops today surrounded the residence of the Peruvian ambassador in Panama City, where important collaborators of former General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime have sought refuge.

The Panamanian Foreign Ministry asserted today that it is aware that Lieutenant Colonel Luis Antonio Cordoba, former National Department of Investigations Chief (DENI) [title as heard], and Captain Gonzalo Gonzalez, former chief of the elite Macho de Monte Company, are inside the Peruvian diplomatic residence.

Another important figure who sought refuge at the Peruvian ambassador's residence is Noriega's main private adviser Marcela Tason and her son, who was a lieutenant in the dismantled Panama Defense Forces [FDP].

Foreign Minister Julio Linares said he is sure that those people are in the residence of the Peruvian ambassador, but that the Panamanian Foreign Ministry has not received any official statement from the Peruvian Government in this regard.

Financial Situation, Letter to Bush Reported

PA0901155090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1342 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 9 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—President Guillermo Endara sent a personal letter to his U.S. counterpart George Bush last night to explain the need for loans and economic aid for the country's reconstruction.

Second Vice President Guillermo Ford, who is also the planning and economic policy minister, revealed this information but would not elaborate on how much Endara asked Bush for.

Panamanian Government sources today reported the difficult situation in which they found the country's finances when the executive took charge of the new administration with only $70 million in cash reserves at the National Bank.

Of this amount, the sources added, 28.5 million will be used to cover the next pay period for public employees, 29 million to cover the 2d pay period in January, and 9.2 million to pay retirees. This means there will only be $3.3 million left in cash at the end of the month.

However, to the $3.3 million, one must add the $375 million that had been frozen by the United States as a means of pressuring General Manuel Antonio Noriega to leave office. These funds have not been completely turned over to Panama, and they provide a financial boost for the new Endara administration.

The United States has already delivered $140 million of that overall figure and has announced that it wants to transfer the rest of the funds to Panama quickly.

Guillermo Ford also said that his government wants to invite the IMF to send a delegation to Panama so this country can present its new economic plan and seek mechanisms to bring its payments up to date so the IMF can grant new loans to Panama.

The IMF placed Panama in the "ineligible" status 2 years ago because it was behind in its payments.

Ford did not mention the extent of the government plans for the country's economic recovery but stressed that, in the next 2 months, the administration will seek to reactivate the labor sector with the creation of 20,000 new jobs.

Ford also announced that his government is also planning the creation of a "general indemnification plan" to compensate store owners affected by the widespread looting carried out after the U.S. military invasion on 20 December.

The losses suffered by Panamanian merchants as a result of this looting—which they estimate at $1.5 billion—are a controversial issue in this country. These merchants asked their insurance companies to cover their losses, but the companies refuse to because of the unusual circumstances in which they were incurred.

The U.S. Government has also rejected any responsibility for the losses caused by the looting, which occurred after the U.S. Army subdued the now defunct Panama Defense Forces—including the police—which left the country without any public order forces.

The Panamanian Government intends to bring up this matter with international financial sources "to get the approval for a general indemnification plan to benefit those enterprises that had insurance, as well as those businesses and enterprises that were damaged and were uninsured," Ford said.

However, this support, he noted, must be used "for the reactivation of businesses so they can resume business operations at the same levels they had prior to 19 December," the date of the U.S. invasion.

Ford stated: "The responsibility of the state is not to tell insurance companies to pay or not. That would have to be handled through the courts." He added that it is one his government's priorities to "reactivate the economy, particularly, to create and increase the number of jobs."

According to the insurance sector, there are 33 insurance and 50 reinsurance companies in Panama that employ 1,150 people, and their insurance premiums total $180 million.

In addition to the losses because of the looting, Panamanian businessmen complained that they have no credit. However, after learning that many of them will not be able to meet their bank obligations, Edgardo Lasso Valdes, president of Panama's Banking Association, announced his willingness to help in their recovery by granting new loans.

Envoy to U.S. Views Aid, Ties With Cuba

PA0901025390 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] According to Carlos Rodriguez, the Panamanian ambassador to the United States, Panama's relations with Cuba and Nicaragua must be reevaluated. Rodriguez, former vice presidential candidate of the ADOC [Democratic Opposition Alliance] in the 1984 elections,

said the government will make every diplomatic effort to freeze the fortunes of former dictator Noriega.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] The Panamanian Government will undertake every effort to freeze the fortune Noriega might have abroad.

[Reporter] Has a specific amount of U.S. aid to Panama been decided on?

[Rodriguez] No, we have not been able to do so because there are several areas in which it is now impossible to determine exactly how much is needed.

[Reporter] We understand that the U.S. federal budget does not include direct aid to Panama. What option or alternative exists to help Panama?

[Rodriguez] This will require special legislation that the U.S. President can request. Therefore, we are confident that the U.S. President will deal with the U.S. responsibility and will help solve the Panamanian problems.

[Reporter] What diplomatic actions will the government undertake regarding the presence of U.S. troops in the country, which many people predict will exceed 6 months?

[Rodriguez] My understanding is that the U.S. Government is in the process of withdrawing its troops gradually. It is hard to determine the exact date for the complete withdrawal.

[Reporter] A historic date will be marked tomorrow, 9 January [the day of anti-U.S. disturbances in 1964]. What do you think the Panamanian people's reaction will be?

[Rodriguez] I think it will be a commemoration of a very important and symbolic day, but within a climate of democracy, something that has not been the case in 21 years. Therefore, it will be a very special day for the Panamanian people.

[Reporter] How do you describe the current relations between the Panamanian and U.S. Governments?

[Rodriguez] Very harmonious. There is a sense of cooperation and mutual responsibility. I think with that spirit we will be able to develop.

[Reporter] What about Panama's relations with the Latin American countries?

[Rodriguez] Well, we are gradually obtaining the recognition of countries. It will be some time before other countries finally recognize Panama's legitimate government.

[Reporter] The Cuban and Nicaraguan Governments' hostile attitude toward Panama has been criticized in recent days. What is your opinion, and what will happen in the future to Panama's relations with those countries of the communist bloc?

[Rodriguez] I think there will have to be a reevaluation of the relations with those two countries because of the very aggressive and negative attitude they have maintained toward the Panamanian Government, not only at this time but during many years of their relations with Noriega's drug-trafficking government.

[Reporter] Should there be a break of relations with them?

[Rodriguez] I think that decision is up to the president. The president will make a decision after an appropriate evaluation. [end recording]

Linares Views Relations With Cuba, Nicaragua

PA0901004390 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2347 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] The Panamanian Government will not permit diplomatic missions that do not recognize the new government of President Endara to remain in Panama. Foreign Minister Julio Linares was primarily referring to the cases of Cuba and Nicaragua, which have lashed out at the new authorities who were democratically elected by the Panamanian people. Foreign Minister Linares met this afternoon with the British and U.S. ambassadors, who presented their credentials.

Foreign Minister Linares said the granting of safe-conduct passes for the Panamanians who have sought asylum at the Cuban Embassy depends on the Government and Justice Ministry decision. The Foreign Ministry is handling the cases through the Government and Justice Ministry so it will determine whether there are legal proceedings against those individuals that would prevent the Foreign Ministry from granting safe-conduct passes for them to leave for other countries.

[Begin recording] [Linares] Their status is currently being studied by the Government and Justice Ministry.

[Reporter] Has any decision been made on Panama's relations with Cuba and Nicaragua? Do you foresee a break in relations with those governments?

[Linares] The only concrete thing is what I stated 2 or 3 days ago—if those governments do not recognize the government of President Endara, they must get ready to withdraw their diplomatic missions from Panama because the current government will not permit countries that do not recognize President Endara to maintain diplomatic missions in Panama.

[Reporter] Would that mean a tacit break of relations?

[Linares] On their part, it would. [end recording]

Arias Calderon Discusses New Public Force

PA0901005690 Paris AFP in Spanish 0028 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 8 Jan (AFP)—First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon said today the presence of the

U.S. troops that occupied Panama on 20 December "is provisional" and will remain until there is a new Panamanian Public Force capable of guaranteeing security and respect for human rights in Panama.

Arias, who is also the government and justice minister, also warned, however, about the possible appearance of guerrilla groups composed of militarymen who served in the regime of deposed former general Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Arias Calderon asserted that he has "serious indications that there are hidden arsenals" and that "there are still contacts between military and paramilitary men" of the previous regime, many of whom "are professionals and not amateurs."

Arias Calderon said that Panama will have a Public Force whose main task will be "to guarantee people's security and respect for human rights," but that the Public Force will have to eventually be able to confront guerrilla attacks, drug-trafficking activities, or the reaction of the Cuban Government, which supported Noriega." [quotation mark as received]

Arias Discusses Major Issues in Interview

AU0801165590 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 8 Jan 90 p 3

[Interview with Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon by Monica Riedler: "We Need a Strong 'Public Force'"; date and place not given]

[Text] DIE PRESSE: At our meeting in September you clearly came out against a U.S. military intervention in Panama. Today you are first vice president, as well as justice and interior minister of a government that came to power with U.S. help. Have you changed your mind?

Arias Calderon: No—in the sense that we did not call for the military action. We learned about it 3 to 4 hours before it started and we were faced with a decision, which was probably the most difficult decision of my life.

We could have leaned back and thus made it possible for it to have turned into a full occupation of the country with the appointment of an occupation government or—and herein lay our decision—we could take over the government to which the people elected us. Because of this the Panamanian people have their own government and are able to gradually win back national sovereignty. There is no doubt that the people not only accepted this choice, but welcomed it, because they experienced what came after the military action as a liberation.

DIE PRESSE: What about your hope for a political solution?

Arias Calderon: Today I know that the hope to get democracy through negotiations was some kind of illusion, because the dictatorship was so powerful and evil. It is clear that it was much worse than we ever imagined, some sort of combination of witchcraft, murder, drug dealing, general suppression of human rights, and corruption. For instance, we did not know anything about the number of weapons that Noriega had brought into the country and had distributed to the irregular troops in the country. More than 70,000 weapons were seized, Soviet AK-47's, M-16's, bazookas....

We also discovered that the so-called "Dignity Batallions" had received far more military training than we had ever imagined; they were probably also trained in guerrilla fighting. During the first days after the military action we lived in total anarchy; the looting and the fighting by Noriega's followers showed the clear beginnings of guerrilla warfare.

DIE PRESSE: How long do you want to see the Americans in your country?

Arias Calderon: As briefly as possible, under the precondition that we have security forces who are able to guarantee the safety of human rights for the population. I do not believe the Panamanians would forgive us if they had to live through this anarchy once again.

DIE PRESSE: Security forces with a focus on the police or on the military?

Arias Calderon: The basis of a "public force" is a technically well-versed, professional police force. This guarantees personal safety, safety of property, traffic safety, and the maintenance of normal public order that regards human rights, which cannot be stressed often enough.

However, Panama as a nation has other security needs that go beyond this: There are a number of indications that many more weapons are hidden in this country. A network of military and paramilitary organizations that has been built over years does not disappear suddenly.

There are two other issues that cause concern. We do not know how the drug mafia will react. In Colombia it has shown its capacity for violence, and we cannot simply assume that it will do nothing in Panama. After all, it has lost an ally who made available the entire structure of a state.

Furthermore, we do not know how the Cubans will react in the medium term. They have lost a silent partner who provided them with all kinds of facilities so they could pursue various activities in other places. We are indeed willing to have normal international relations with Cuba, but will they be satisfied with this?

Therefore, I think that we need a small—and I stress, small—number of troops who are mobile and can react to any of these potential dangers as soon as the U.S. troops leave the country, which we want to happen as soon as possible. One more thing, our basic goal is: "Never again." We will make sure that never again will a military establishment be used by a criminal to oppress the Panamanian people.

DIE PRESSE: In 10 years the Panama Canal is to be under the exclusive control of this country. Will negotiations on the U.S. military bases also be held then?

Arias Calderon: I do not see this as a topic at present. At the moment we are busy rebuilding the country and the economy and establishing a security force that defends democracy. There is no question that we are aiming at nationalizing the canal.

DIE PRESSE: The U.S. Congress delegation told journalists that neither President Endara nor you cited specific sums for economic aid.

Arias Calderon: What we need is a gigantic sum for us, but "peanuts" for the United States.

DIE PRESSE: Representatives of the Chamber of Commerce speak of $1.2 billion.

Arias Calderon: I agree with this, and I would perhaps even give a slightly higher sum. The moral responsibility to grant us this support is now greater than ever. Lives have been lost on both sides, and it seems that this is a link that makes the responsibility for continuing aid even stronger.

DIE PRESSE: You yourself have very good contacts in Europe and also in the Far East. Will you use these contacts to get urgently needed economic aid?

Arias Calderon: There has already been a visit by the EC representative to our foreign minister, during which the topic of cooperation was discussed, among others. As soon as we can keep our head above water, it is, in my view, a priority to stimulate cooperation with Europe and the Far East and not to rely just on cooperation with the United States.

DIE PRESSE: During their military intervention, the U.S. troops arrested some thousands of Panamanians. What will happen to them?

Arias Calderon: I hope that by Monday the number will have gone down to 200-300, because checks are proceeding smoothly. Just because they were arrested during the fighting they are not automatically guilty. If they are not accused of any crimes, they will be released. However, I have personally convinced myself that they are treated in line with human rights. Those who are guilty according to Panamanian law will be gradually put under Panamanian supervision, but first we need Panamanian prisons and a judicial system. We are now in the process of establishing both.

DIE PRESSE: Are you concerned about the reaction of Latin American states to the U.S. intervention?

Arias Calderon: I am more disappointed than concerned. During the past 2 to 3 years I warned many Latin American presidents that Noriega was not only destroying the country but that with his criminal actions he might provoke the United States so much that a military action or the probability of one could be predicted. This should have been prevented beforehand; there is no use in lamenting it afterward. We repeatedly called for a joint action by the "Group of Eight" or the OAS. With a few exceptions, we received weak answers, even in very ambivalent rhetoric.

It would be time to show solidarity with the people who feel liberated and need help for the reconstruction. Some states are starting this: Guatemala is sending an ambassador; the Dominican Republic has recognized our government; and we have contacts with other states.

DIE PRESSE: Do you really want to put Noriega on trial in Panama?

Arias Calderon: If the United States releases Noriega one day, he will have to pay a high debt in our country. At this time we will have the judicial system and the prison to deal with him in an appropriate way.

Vice President Arias Views Relations With Cuba

PA0801162390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1517 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 8 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon said today that his government prefers to have "respectful government to government relations with Cuba," but that "so far, Fidel Castro does not seem willing."

According to what Arias told a group of reporters, Castro may take either of two positions on the new Panama situation following the 20 December U.S. military intervention: "Respectful relations," as mentioned, or encouraging guerrilla and terrorist acts in this country.

"We still do not know what reaction the Fidel Castro government, which has these two choices, is going to have," added Arias.

The Panamanian vice president, who is also the government and justice minister, said Cuba is a "regime isolated from Europe and Latin America, which may commit acts that hopefully it will not commit."

Arias said Cuba's reaction to the new Panamanian situation is one of the "potential dangers" this government must consider, together with imponderables, such as what the military and paramilitary groups belonging to the previous regime—that are still at large—and the drug traffickers will do.

"We still do not know how the drug-trafficking mafia is going to react. They were used to having an ally in this country with all the government resources. We do know, however, their capacity for violence in other countries," the vice president added.

Arias explained that because of the risks, Panama's new police force, which will replace General Manuel Antonio

Noriega's Defense Forces, even though it will not be an army, will have "specialized troops" in addition to regular policemen.

Arias Calderon Visits Immigration Department

PA0901015890 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president and government and justice minister, today visited the offices of the Immigration Department, which will be run by Jose de los Santos Chen Barria. According to Arias Calderon, the appointment of a civilian to this high-ranking position represents one more step toward the country's demilitarization.

[Arias Calderon] "I think one of the first practical measures in this direction was the appointment of Jose de los Santos Chen Barria as director of the immigration service. He has the very specific task of completely demilitarizing the immigration service and of preparing the transfer of this service from where it was located as part of the former Defense Forces to where it will be located under the Government and Justice Ministry."

Arias Calderon also referred to the organization of the Public Force.

[Arias Calderon] "The Public Force's main attention will center on providing protection to citizens and respecting human rights through a modern, professional, first-rate police service. In time, it will have to have some specialized units, but the Public Force will not become an army. The Public Force will not have an air force with combat planes, helicopter gunships, and all that which turns an air service into an air force. It is more than likely that the Public Force will have, after it decided by the president, an air transportation service to fulfill its mission."

Meanwhile, new Immigration Director Jose de los Santos Chen Barria reported many irregularities in the Immigration Department.

[Chen Barria] "The public knows that Cuban and Chinese citizens would come here to legalize their situation. They were given different types of visas and were granted Panamanian passports and identification cards. As you know, some of those people paid huge sums of money for those papers. Some Cubans are in Panama only as a transit point from which to immigrate to the United States. Last year 8,850 Chinese and more than 10,000 Cubans entered the country. The Panamanian people now know how many Chinese and Cubans have entered the country. You, Mr. Reporter, now have the statistics from the past 5 years indicating how many Chinese and Cubans have entered the country."

[Reporter] "Who were the individuals involved in these deals?"

[Chen Barria] "I would not like to provide specific names because this is an investigation that falls under the Attorney General's Office. The attorney general must undertake such an investigation."

[Reporter] "In addition to the Immigration Department, what other departments were involved in this scheme involving the Cubans and Chinese?"

[Chen Barria] "I assume that several other departments were involved in this. This would include the Passport Office because passports are not issued here. Identification cards are also not issued in this office. Individuals follow procedures here, but they must get their identification cards and passports elsewhere."

Ford Notes Need for National Reconstruction

PA0801190790 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 7 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by Althea Forster de Chavarria]

[Text] Guillermo Ford, second vice president and planning and economic policy minister, has acknowledged the importance and priority of the country's foreign debt, but he is also conscious that first to be accomplished must be national reconstruction and the creation of jobs to reduce unemployment, which has been worsened by the vandalism that has left 95 percent of companies and businesses paralyzed.

Ford said the banking system has to be rebuilt to help private enterprise and create new jobs.

Ford stressed that there will be no persecution, but, nevertheless, he said that "the assets of those people who have robbed the state and whose money is proven to come from illegal sources will be seized and turned over to the national treasury, through a legal process."

Costa Rican Candidate Castillo Supports Endara

PA0701233190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2157 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 7 Jan (ACAN - EFE)—Carlos Manuel Castillo, presidential candidate of the ruling National Liberation Party of Costa Rica, today expressed his "support" for new Panamanian President Guillermo Endara, who met with him today at the presidential Palace of the Herons.

"I want to express to you the support that we have always given you as legitimate leaders of the Panamanians since the 7 May elections," a press bulletin of the Panamanian Presidency quotes Castillo as stating.

The presidential candidate and his wife, Panamanian Kira de la Rosa Castillo, met in the Palace of the Herons with Endara, Papal Nuncio Jose Sebastian Laboa, Vice Presidents Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford, and other high-ranking officials.

Castillo will return to Costa Rica this afternoon after a visit of a few hours to the Panamanian capital.

PRD Leaders Meet With President Endara

PA0901005290 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2315 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] President Guillermo Endara today met at the presidential palace with Jorge Ritter, former foreign minister, and Ernesto Perez Balladares, former coordinator of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], who are planning to form a new opposition group.

Jorge Ritter told ACAN-EFE that they did not go to the Presidency on behalf of the PRD, but on behalf of a group of people who plan to contribute to strengthening the democratic system as the opposition.

Prosecutor: All Crimes Slated for Investigation

PA0901001390 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Jan 89 p 12A

[Report by Nubia Aparicio S.]

[Text] Prosecutor General Rogelio Cruz has told LA PRENSA: "We will not discriminate among those who deserve to be punished for the crimes they committed. We will do our duty as stipulated in the constitution and by-laws. We will monitor the actions of government officials from now on and examine the actions of previous officials."

Cruz, appointed by the Government of National Reconstruction and Reconciliation on 26 December, said that even crimes committed by top officials at the former prosecutor's office are already being investigated. "We are looking into probable embezzlement committed in the various government agencies. We have a formidable task ahead in the investigation of these crimes."

Cruz also referred to the crimes that were "mishandled" during the military regime, which "either involved releasing the guilty parties from their responsibilities or charging innocent people with crimes." He said further: "We will reopen criminal cases in which a sentence has already been pronounced by competent courts."

According to the prosecutor, this plan "will result in several important technical and legal problems. I think, however, that we will be able to investigate all of these cases again and either punish the truly guilty or acquit the innocent who were sentenced unjustly."

Regarding material, legal, and moral matters, Cruz said he found the office in shambles the day he assumed office as prosecutor.

Asked about Omar Torrijos Herrera's death, Cruz said that, as far as he knows, no relative of Torrijos has expressed any interest in his fate. "In addition, we have no evidence to start an ex officio investigation. May I reiterate that we are willing to investigate all crimes as objectively as possible so the innocent can be exonerated and the guilty punished."

Asked about the his priority tasks, Cruz said the reorganization of the office is extremely important so a large number of reports can be received and the proper legal procedures can be initiated immediately.

"At the prosecutor's office alone, we have received approximately 50 accusations, reports, and complaints whose investigations we have started ex officio."

According to the prosecutor, this shows that the people who learn of a crime now have the courage to go to his office and say: "I saw this or that crime perpetrated." This indicates a restoration of the reliability that the administration of justice must enjoy in the eyes of the people."

Cruz said that, after so many years without justice, the Panamanian people are eager for it. "I feel that, starting on 20 December, the people have wanted to quench this thirst for justice in a few days. I am worried about this, because it is similar to a thirsty man spending many days in the desert and, upon reaching a stream, attempting to drink his fill of water all at once. But this would kill him."

Regarding this, he said: "We are being pressured by many citizens who are trying to make us handle this office as they want and not as it should be handled."

Finally, referring to preventive detention, Cruz said: "I abhor this provision. I think a person should not be detained when he or she is in the summary proceedings and prior to his or her being sentenced. They should be detained in the case of very serious crimes or in very specific circumstances. In other words, this detention should be the exception rather than the rule."

Academic Year Closed for Security Reasons

PA0901030990 Paris AFP in Spanish 0220 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 8 Jan (AFP)—Today Education Minister Ada de Gordon announced the closing of the academic year in Panama, citing security reasons for the decision and saying that classes at schools and institutes will begin again in April.

"We have closed the school year because of the degree of restlessness endured by the country," she explained.

She added that an undetermined number of students who did not fulfill the requirements in the academic program will be given special tests in March.

This measure affects approximately 300,000 students and 25,000 teachers, but Gordon asserted that students whose grades were adequate will pass on to the next year.

The Panamanian academic year consists of four 2-month periods. At the time of the U.S. invasion on 20 December, only three 2-month periods had elapsed.

Laboa Describes Noriega Refuge at Nunciature

PM0801164490 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 7-8 Jan 90 p 13

[Report by Maurizio Ricci]

[Text] Panama—There were never any negotiations to send Noriega into exile. In fact it was clear from the outset—from the moment the fleeing dictator entered the Vatican Nunciature—that he was bound to end up in court in Miami. For almost 10 days the problem was how to convince the general—who was stripped of his rank yesterday—that he had no other choice. A crucial role in this task of persuasion was performed by Eliecer Gaitan, the head of the dictator's personal security services, who is still taking refuge inside the nunciature. These services were organized for Noriega by former Israeli agent Mike Harari, and many believe that Gaitan too has links with the Mossad. Be that as it may, it was Gaitan that watched over Noriega for 10 days, who kept watch lest he do anything stupid (such as commit suicide or start shooting), and who—together with the nuncio—persuaded him to surrender.

A small, lively, former clergyman [as received], dressed unwontedly in his official episcopal garb, Monsignor Jose Sebastian Laboa provided Italian journalists with a reconstruction of the past 10 days—that is, since he took "the most difficult decision of my life: to allow Noriega into the nunciature without first being able to consult the Vatican." "By telephone, that Sunday, Christmas Eve, his emissaries gave me a quarter of an hour to decide. Otherwise the former general would have taken taken the guerrilla path and the bloodshed would have continued. I thought that I could persuade him to surrender, while at the same time keeping his right to asylum intact, as indeed it remained."

In the nunciature Noriega lived under normal conditions, with complete freedom to talk and consult with Gaitan and Madrinan (the secret police chief), albeit without the opportunity to communicate with the outside world. It was here, in this first-floor room in the nunciature, still surrounded by serried ranks of rangers, that the two crucial conversations on Noriega's surrender took place. Sitting in these same chairs, the nuncio and Monsignor Berloco (the Vatican envoy) discussed 2-3 January the final conditions for his surrender. Above all there was the final conversation, on the afternoon of his surrender, while a few hundred meters away 20,000 people were demanding "justice" against the dictator. It was then that Gaitan said: "I am prepared to die with you, but why should you die? With every day that passes the situation becomes more difficult. The demonstrations will continue, and sooner or later they will break through the cordon of American troops; the Marines will not dare to fire on the crowd and the people will enter here. And you will meet the same end as Benito Mussolini."

"Then," Monsignor Labor recounted, "we stood up—including Noriega—to go to mass in the chapel. But in fact the general had basically been convinced since the previous day. There were still certain details to discuss, such as the time for his transfer to the Americans. Noriega wanted to leave at 0200 hours at night, whereas we insisted on 2000 hours in the evening so he would arrive in Florida at night, somewhat protected from curiosity."

[Reporter] Was there no other possible solution, such as exile in another country, such as Cuba or Spain, as was much discussed?

[Laboa] Noriega did talk about it. But the possibility never existed. The Americans, and even the Panamanians, would never have granted him safe conduct. They wanted him in court in Florida.

[Reporter] So what was the subject of so much discussion between you and the Americans?

[Laboa] I was sure that for us to work psychologically on Noriega he had to separated from his entourage, from Gaitan and Madrinan, who could exert a negative influence on him. I asked the Americans to have them moved to another embassy. But the Americans are not very flexible and demanded a guarantee that I would hand Noriega over to them. How could I grant it?

[Reporter] Did you also suggest shifting the Vatican diplomatic mission?

[Laboa] I suggested extending—so to speak—diplomatic immunity to another building so as to be able to move these other refuge seekers there. I certainly did not suggest—though this has been written—depriving the nunciature of its immunity to permit the Americans to enter it. At one juncture, since General Cisneros was insisting that we hurry, I exclaimed: Come in and take him away; but you can take the responsibility for it. However, it was just an outburst and nothing more. Noriega was never threatened with expulsion from the nunciature.

[Reporter] Did Noriega ever say: I am staying here.

[Laboa] No. He realized that he would have created a very embarrassing situation for the Vatican, which had helped him by accepting him. Bear in mind the hatred for him that the Panamanians displayed.

[Reporter] However, Gaitan and Madrinan remained.

[Laboa] We realized that it was better that way. Gaitan was also very important in convincing Noriega that the most dignified solution was to surrender to the Americans. Especially after they gave me a guarantee that they would not alter the charges and that the general therefore did not risk the death sentence under any circumstances.

[Reporter] Is it true that you feared that Noriega could commit suicide?

[Laboa] We could not rule it out. Gaitan had had a master key cut so he could keep watch on him at all times.

[Reporter] What about weapons? Noriega had a machine gun under his mattress.

[Laboa] Gaitan took it away from him on the last day and brought it to me. He did not tell Noriega about it, and 10 minutes later the general later summoned him because he could not work out how it had disappeared.

[Reporter] There has been much talk about Noriega and cocaine. In the past few days did you notice any typical signs of drug withdrawal?

[Laboa] Noriega seemed normal to me. His glance was rather vacant, but this has always been a characteristic of his. He ate well and was in good physical shape.

[Reporter] Why did the dictator surrender?

[Laboa] As he wrote to his wife—to preserve his life. Now I am going on a new adventure, he wrote.

[Reporter] What do you think of the Noriega trial?

[Laboa] It will be most interesting—the trial of the century. This man knows a great deal about Israel, the CIA, the secret services, the mafia, and drug trafficking.

Editorial Criticizes OAS, Foreign Ministers

PA0801192190 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Jan 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Irresponsibility of the OAS"]

[Text] With rash demagoguery the OAS has resorted to the handy principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other states to condemn the United States for its so-called invasion of Panama." [quotation marks as published] The principle, irrefutable as a norm of conduct among states the institutions and governments of which are the result of the free determination of their peoples, cannot be legitimately invoked to protect aberrant situations of oppression and injustice imposed by governments created by force and that systematically violate international treaties and conventions on human rights.

In the case of Panama, the United States did not intervene to subjugate the Panamanian people. They intervened to free the Panamanian people of a barbaric, corrupt, and insane tyranny that would have ended by taking the country to total ruin with serious risk to the operation of the Panama Canal and that would have been a threat to the political stability of some Latin American countries.

The OAS knows the United States did not want to resort to intervention and did all it could to avoid it. Throughout the past 2 years, special U.S. Government representatives met with Noriega's delegates several times in an attempt to reach a civilized and peaceful solution to the Panamanian problem. Each time, Noriega made it impossible to reach an agreement. Several Latin American political leaders carried out many negotiations to no avail. The OAS also had the opportunity to participate in the search for solutions, but the complicity of some of its leaders, the political cowardice of others, and the passive attitude of the rest soon made the Panamanian people realize that nothing significant could be achieved from that useless hemispheric organization.

In quick succession, Noriega imposed a provisional president; chose the members of a National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives; made the State Council formally announce that the Panamanian Government could not guarantee the lives or property of its opponents or U.S. citizens; declared Panama in a state of war with the United States; and appointed himself head of government with unlimited powers.

Meanwhile, he organized, armed, and trained many paramilitary groups that began and carried out acts of harassment against the United States and its citizens. The tensions increased, a U.S. officer was killed, and others were arrested, beaten, and tortured. The unavoidable took place. The United States resorted to the use of its Armed Forces to solve, with the use of force, a very serious hemispheric problem that laws and diplomacy could not solve. The Panamanian people understood this and this is why the U.S. troops in Panama have repeatedly received proof of our esteem, solidarity, and friendship.

What happened is now history and history will put things in the right perspective. Panama can now begin, with renewed spirit, to build a future with justice, democracy, and freedom, something that would not have been possible had the mistaken and contradictory opinions of the OAS and its flamboyant foreign ministers prevailed.

In its last issue, almost 2 years ago, LA PRENSA said: The situation is very clear— Noriega or Panama. There is no in between." [quotation marks as published]. The OAS chose Noriega and, as usual, it made a mistake. Panama prevailed.

Editorial Comments on OAS 'Irresponsibility'

PA0801184790 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 5 Jan 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The Irresponsibility of the OAS"]

[Text] Following the painful incidents that began on 20 December 1989, the OAS issued two resolutions supported by the Latin American countries. The first condemned the U.S. military incursion and the second called for the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. forces from Panama.

The Latin American governments, driven by emotions that we are not going to describe here, acted against the interests of the Panamanian people, against the security of 35,000 U.S. civilians living in Panama, against the security of the Panama Canal, and against the international campaign to put an end to drug trafficking and money laundering. The Latin American governments acted, without taking into consideration the agony of the Panamanian people, to preserve archaic notions of sovereignty held over from the last century.

On 20 December, the U.S. Army did not attack or invade the Republic of Panama. This army acted against a corrupt, criminal military organization, which held 2 million people hostage, which threatened to kill 35,000 U.S. civilians, which was on the verge of destroying the Panama Canal, and which entirely dominated the civilian, executive, legislative, and judicial authorities in the country, who approved of its crimes and corruption. The purpose of the military action was to liberate Panamanians. Today, after reviewing the plans for murder and destruction and the 75,000 weapons distributed among the ill-named Dignity Battalions and the paramilitary groups, it is clear that the danger of the country's total destruction was imminent. Without the help of a friendly country, Panama would have been destroyed and the return to democracy would have been delayed by 500 years.

The Colombian ambassador condemned the U.S. action during a television program. We ask the Colombian ambassador and his colleagues: What would Colombian civilians do should the Medellin drug-trafficking cartel, God forbid, take over the Colombian Armed Forces and through it control the executive, legislative, and judicial branches while trampling upon all civilians in the process of looting common property? Would Colombian civilians accept help to free them from their misery from friendly countries such as Venezuela, Brazil, or the United States? We pose the same questions to the Peruvians: If they were controlled by Shining Path, would they like Panamanians to condemn those who might help them overcome their misery, because they do not have the means to do it themselves?

The second OAS resolution is even more irresponsible. It asked the U.S. Army to immediately withdraw from Panama. Had it withdrawn while the Indignity Battalions and members of the 2000, Urraca, Expeditionary, Doberman, and Pitufo Battalions and other despised and corrupt military organizations remained, Panama City would have burned as Rome did, with Manuel Antonio Noriega playing the role of Nero. The OAS exhibited no knowledge of events and showed no humanitarian consideration toward the Panamanians.

We insist that the OAS is shielding itself behind an archaic concept. In ancient times, each king defended his castle because attackers only sought to expand their territory. In the modern world, the goal of territorial expansion is nonexistent, but peaceful coexistence among nations does exist. Member nations cannot allow one of them to be ruled by tyrants who not only subjugate the country's citizens, but also pose a threat to international stability, and are involved in crimes against humanity, drug trafficking, and money laundering. The elimination of a criminal government system in Panama or elsewhere is a responsiblity of all civilized governments. It is an international problem, not a problem of defenseless citizens who have no means to free themselves from tyranny.

A citizen was asked: What is the basis of sovereignty? He answered that sovereignty is the overwhelming will of the people, a consensus of opinion, and the wishes of the citizens. The act of war to free the Panamanians was not directed against Panamanian sovereignty regardless of whether Costa Rica, Colombia, or the United States carried it out. This action did not harm Panamanian sovereignty or the Republic of Panama, represented by an immense majority of Panamanians. It was a military action against a tyrant who harmed the Panamanians' sovereignty and the Republic of Panama.

Regardless of what the Latin American governments may be thinking, all Panamanians have welcomed the U.S. Armed Forces, who, while sacrificing their lives, have destroyed the criminal military apparatus with expressions of solidarity. That is the case with an overwhelming majority. If there is any complaint, it is why they did not do it before.

We sent a message to the OAS ambassadors and the people who live between Patagonia and the Rio Grande. Except for prisoner Manuel Antonio Noriega and his military and civilian clique, who led the country to an abyss with drug trafficking, money laundering, torture, jailings, the rape of children, and outrageous corruption, all—we insist—all Panamanians acknowledge that there was no other means to free Panamanians from tyranny and are aware that Panamanians are thankful for the military support of the U.S. Armed Forces. There was no other way out and the OAS certainly could not or was not willing to provide it.

Goals of New Public Force Termed 'Huge Task'

PA0801220390 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA
in Spanish 6 Jan 90 p A4

[Editorial: "The New Public Force"]

[Text] The new Government of National Reconstruction and Reconciliation headed by Guillermo Endara Galimany wisely adopted as one of its first measures the abolition of the former defense forces, which had become, even against the will of most of its members, an armed body at the personal service of its commander and which, therefore, did not respond to its true mission.

The new Public Force, which is currently being organized, has a huge task ahead. However, it has as its first commander an officer like Colonel Eduardo Herrera Hassan, who was exiled because he did not agree with the

line followed by the institution to which he dedicated many years of service, and as second commander, Colonel Aristides Valdonedo, who spent several months in jail for the same reason. We are aware of the military record of these two officers, as well as of others who have joined the Public Force, and we are sure that they will do their job with dedication and honesty under the supreme leadership of the head of state and more directly under the Ministry of Government and Justice, as it should be.

We know the Panamanian people do not want anything similar to the Defense Forces to exist in the future, and we share that criterion. However, we are also aware that once U.S. troops withdraw from Panama, it will be very difficult to maintain public order and everything related to state security with a small, although professional, police corps.

What matters most is the citizens' peace, and that there should never again be armed forces under one person's direct control, a situation that can be avoided through a variety of mechanisms used in other countries, where different police or military type organizations are accountable to different state bodies, and their missions are very clearly defined.

Meanwhile, unless something else happens, it will be Panama's duty after the year 2000 to work in conjunction with the United States on everything referring to the waterway's defense, and that cannot be done with a simple group of policemen because of the vulnerability of that great engineering masterpiece. The Panamanian people are perfectly aware of the direct and indirect benefits that are obtained from the canal, and they never had the slightest intention of harming it, but when we look at the actions perpetrated by professional terrorists in other countries, we must never dismiss that possibility.

Over the past few days the people have lived through an experience that I hope God will never allow to happen again. Nevertheless, not only the capital city, but the entire country, is being guarded by specialized U.S. forces before and after curfew hours. Many people may be under the impression that this situation will continue indefinitely, but this is not the case because President Bush has stated that those troops must be withdrawn as soon as possible, once he believes the time is right. The Public Force's work will then become more important, because it will be solely responsible for safeguarding the peace and safety of all citizens.

I wish all of the Public Force members success in their mission, and I am certain that they will immediately restore the confidence to the people that they lost as a result of the abuses and excesses that were committed for so long.

Editorial Assails LA ESTRELLA Director

PA0801144390 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 5 Jan 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Slander the Accuser and Wash Out Your Guilt"]

[Text] The trick is old and gamy. "Slander your accuser and wash out your guilt." The ambush prepared by Fito Duque [Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA president-director] (the Chameleon) cannot be more candid—he is trying to change his image of accused to accuser. Again, for the umpteenth time, he is trying to deceive the public, who already know him, and therefore hate him.

We will not fall into the dirty game of this freshwater shark. He and his newspaper acquired a nauseating stench during Noriega's dictatorship and are under public criticism. Their reputation is at stake. The Chameleon and his frequent embezzlement, which he must carry with him as a curse, are under scrutiny by a democratic conscience that no longer tolerates those despicable persons who are with God and the Devil at the same time.

While the rest of Fito's gang lie in common graves, have gone into exile, or are simply to face the judges for lesser crimes than Altamirano Duque's, he is hoping he can avoid being judged with the others and is trying to appear before Panamanians as a celestial cherub brought to us as a present by the Three Wise Men.

Fito Duque and his dirty deals. Fito Duque and his stratified interests. Fito Duque and his lease contracts. Fito Duque and the heavy burden of his guilt are being judged by the national public. The dirty trick of trying to turn things around and attempting to question the prestige and credibility of this paper—a paper that has been on the side of the people from the outset, that plainly identified itself as being opposed to the Noriega dictatorship, and that was brutally closed by the totalitarian military regime—could not be more childish.

When Fito resorted to his anti-Noriega ablutions to jump over the picket fence and move to the other side at the most convenient time, he did not foresee that this newspaper would have the guts to publish his despicable whims and abject bawdiness. He underestimated us. Showing an absolute lack of intelligence, he underestimated us because if EL SIGLO was bold enough to face Fito's boss until his defeat, it was self-deluding to think it would be afraid of his servant. One is not afraid of the skin after killing the tiger. Fito is a dead tiger. He died with the satrap Noriega and his band of gangsters, and with him died the contract for printing lottery tickets, the sacking of others' patrimony, and the grotesque imposition he maintains over the rest of his decent family. Fito's skin cannot scare us.

Fito, who did not honor his family name and tradition, is the one who owes the public, not EL SIGLO. He, and not us, owes an explanation. We will not fall into the

game of this petty politician, whose vileness is well-known and notorious. If his influence and long arm can still reach the court of justice that permits him to evade penal law, we will not rest until he is buried. We swear this on behalf of an unsatisfied public who want real democracy; who have earned the right to have justice, good justice; and who demand that as a matter of simple social hygiene, Panama be cleansed of conceited individuals who played with their good faith. This is not personal, Mr. Chameleon, it is a matter of principle!!!

Editorial Comments on End of Previous Government

PA0801134290 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 5 Jan 89 p 4

[Editorial: "End of a Satrapy"]

[Text] The 11 October 1968 military coup established a regime marked by the whip, military commands, and submission to the will of the military, all of which did away with the freedom of the Panamanian people, introduced foreign political and social formulas, started the struggle of classes, and fanned the deep-seated hatred of names and wealth.

Over the course of the years of submission, the so-called process eliminated the democratic formulas, turned the Assembly into a farce, and laid aside the judicial authorities. As a consequence, only the will of the satrap prevailed and censure, silence, and complicity resulted.

The damage inflicted on the lives of the Panamanian people resulted in a society without critics or opposition until one day, the collective sickness said: Enough! The people marched along the path of civilist and democratic recovery with their chests thrust forward and their heads held high. Those were days of hard toil and confrontation. White banners and the national flag met with birdshot, bullets, cudgels, and imprisonment, all of which made the people's consciences long for a change to eradicate the wickedness in power.

A gang of thugs installed in key positions surrounded the tyrant who, carried to the heights by flattery, even believed he was predestined by gods and demons.

Satanism, witchcraft, and santeria marked his decisions, which, with needles, pins, blood, and pictures, led the country to a confrontation with the friendly United States.

Now, after the events that sprang from arrogance, stupidity, and misunderstanding led to bloodshed and the presence of foreign military forces on our soil, calm judgment should determine the responsibilities of those who should have applied common sense, respect, and patriotism. However, they were unable to understand that this narrow territory is not suitable ground for tyrants or collective extremism out of step with history.

What happened in Panama, our inability to avoid the poison of demagoguery and opportunism, and the rise in the evil of heart and purpose must not be repeated. For this reason, in an act of collective contrition, all of us Panamanians should vow to reinforce civility and democracy, thus enabling future generations to receive—pure, noble, and healthy—the homeland that the distinguished citizens of November [month of national independence] left for us.

Government To Reopen International Airports

PA0901154490 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 9 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] A government spokesman has announced that the Tocumen [formerly Torrijos] and Paitilla International Airports will reopen for air traffic on 10 January following their closure because of U.S. military actions.

According to our source, Tocumen Airport's reopening follows security coordination efforts. The airport is adjacent to the former Air Force base, which was destroyed during actions carried out by the U.S. Army to capture former General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Only special flights have been allowed in and out of the airport which, until now, has been guarded by U.S. troops.

Quiros' Radio Impacto To Resume Broadcasting

PA0901160490 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 7 Jan 90 p 9

[Report by Rafael Perez]

[Text] Professor Alberto Quiros Guardia, owner of Radio Impacto, a station closed by the Torrijos dictatorship, has advised that it will be back on the air shortly.

Quiros said that a letter had been sent to the Government and Justice Ministry and that he had been informed that priority will be assigned to the media and to Radio Impacto, "which is rightfully ours."

Alberto Quiros said that the Government and Justice Ministry is already looking for the files and examining the situation.

In conclusion, Professor Quiros stressed that his request will be made through legal channels. "It is not a matter of taking one station or another; we will see what we have, what was done, wait for the results of the investigation, and see that we get back what is rightfully ours," Quiros said.

'Scandalous Case' of Doctors With Military Ranks

PA0901003190 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 8 Jan 90 pp 1, 15

[Excerpt] State auditors have discovered a scandalous case of doctors who held military ranks in the defunct Defense Forces, earning several salaries without properly performing their professional duties.

Among the doctors assigned to the Military Health Battalion were Doctors Carlos Pareja and Maurice Kipping—both of whom had the rank of captain—who have been mentioned in the local media as participants in the murder of Doctor Hugo Spadafora Franco.

In the list we reproduce here to keep the public informed are doctors who were given ranks ranging from agent to lieutenant colonel. These doctors did not comply with their working hours, carried out their duties capriciously, and were even engaged in activities that were totally against the Hippocratic oath.

Many of the doctors who appear in this long list carried out specific duties for the military personnel and their relatives through military health clinics and gave medical attention to civilians in rural areas through medical assistance tours. However, most of the doctors mentioned here enjoyed many privileges and a noticeable economic boost, as well as the power derived from their ranks and their total and unlimited identification with the guidelines of deposed General Noriega.

[passage omitted]

Argentina

Group of Eight Meeting Might Be Postponed

PY0801180490 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] A newspaper report today says that Latin American Relations Under Secretary Jose Luis Fernandez Valoni will travel to Lima in a few hours to participate in the Group of Eight meeting. The issue of Panama will be discussed during this meeting, particularly the recognition of the government of Guillermo Endara.

We consulted some sources in the Foreign Ministry: They told us that the trip and the Group of Eight meeting might be postponed until next Friday or even next Monday because Argentina and Brazil have not yet responded to the invitation extended by the Peruvian Government to meet on the issue of Panama. In turn, Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela, all members of the Group of Eight, have said that they will attend the meeting providing all the members attend.

A meeting is scheduled for this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry to analyze the possibility that the meeting in Lima might be scheduled for next Friday or even next Monday. As for the possibility of recognizing the current Panamanian Government, Argentina contends that the U.S. troops should leave that country and that new elections should be called. To this end, the respective embassies of the Group of Eight countries are consulting to see if the meeting proposed by Peru should be held.

We will monitor this afternoon's meeting and confirm whether the Argentina representatives will travel next Friday to the Group of Eight meeting which will discuss the recognition of the Endara government.

Bolivia

Congress Ratifies Condemnation of U.S. Invasion

PY0901021690 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] The various blocs in Congress have endorsed the document issued by the leadership of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate regarding the U.S. military invasion of Panama.

During their first session of the year the national representatives were in agreement on their criticism of the U.S. intervention, stating that this is a policy that the United States intends to impose in Latin American countries.

The declaration, which was issued on 29 December and had to be ratified before being submitted to the Latin American Parliament meeting next month, was read during the first session of the year.

Political Sectors Criticize U.S. Radar Plan

PY0901022690 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Most political parties have criticized the U.S. plan to install military radar systems in Bolivian, Peruvian, and Colombian territory within the framework of an effort to fight drug trafficking.

The United Left, through a statement by (Alfonso Alen), said that such a move would signal the reimplementation of an outdated policy. (Alen) recalled that the United States did something similar in its colonialist policy.

The Movement of the Revolutionary Left believes that the installation of radar would not solve the drug trafficking problem and that coordinated policies are necessary. Juan Carlos Duran believes that a change of attitude regarding the problem is necessary.

The Movement of the Revolutionary Left-Nationalist Democratic Action Patriotic Agreement believes that Bolivia needs to carry out sovereign antidrug trafficking programs.

The Conscience of the Fatherland highlighted the U.S. intentions and demanded united Bolivian action against the United States.

Interior Minister Views Alternative Development

PY0801214390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0002 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Excerpt] La Paz, 6 Jan (EFE)—It was reported today that Bolivian Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco has said that the U.S.-Andean antidrug summit [words indistinct] should advocate alternative development in the Andean countries as the most appropriate means to fight drug trafficking.

The antidrug summit scheduled for the Colombian city of Cartagena de Indias will be attended by Colombian President Virgilio Barco, Peruvian President Alan Garcia, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, and U.S. President George Bush.

Capobianco said that during the preparatory meeting that will begin on 10 January in the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 903 km south of [word indistinct], the Bolivian Government will support the viewpoint that a balance between repression and alternative development should be maintained in the antidrug struggle.

Capobianco noted that more actions have been taken toward repression rather than alternative development. This fact has not prevented vast amounts of peasants from growing coca leaves, the raw material for cocaine processing. [passage omitted]

International Parliamentary Drug Meeting Scheduled

PY0801155090 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] The first international parliamentary meeting to discuss matters related to drug trafficking will be held in La Paz from 27 to 29 January. This information was provided by the president of the Chamber of Deputies who explained that the meeting is intended to define drug control policies. He noted the double importance of this meeting because its conclusions will complement the agreements that might be reached by the Andean Group presidents and the U.S. Chief of State. [passage indistinct]

Brazil

Daily Criticizes U.S. Military 'Adventures'

PY0801150690 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Panamanian Adventure"]

[Text] The capitulation of former Panamanian dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega has put an end to a diplomatic impasse between the United States and the Vatican that had been dragging on for days. Despite the favorable result of the operation for President George Bush, evidently it is not possible to consider the whole American military operation in Panama a success. Once again the concept that Central America is an area subject to intervention by a hegemonic empire has been confirmed. Thus, one more regrettable episode has been added to the historical record of aggressions against the sovereignty and the violation of international law carried out by super powers in the past few decades.

From the military point of view it has been a precipitated and evidently incompetent action that almost dropped the United States into a ridiculous international situation. The invasion of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama unnecessarily increased tension in an extremely delicate political and diplomatic situation. From the human point of view, a considerable price was paid for this attack. From the political point of view, President Bush has probably not yet recovered the popularity he lost since the operation began. From the strategic point of view, the Panamanian conditions of governability have not significantly improved.

The point is not to defend the fine example of immorality, under development, and dictatorship that was the Noriega regime. The U.S. policy in Central America will not make progress as long as it favors these kind of adventures which are to the detriment of social and economic development.

Columnist on Panamanian Nunciature Siege

PY0801170090 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Jan 90 p 2

[Aloysio Azevedo commentary: "The Siege of Rome"]

[Text] The siege imposed on the Catholic Nunciature in Panama by the most powerful army in the world reminds us of the siege of Rome by Attila's barbarians. Militarily speaking, the nunciature does not have the Papal Swiss Guards while the U.S. Army does have a destructive power far greater than that of the Huns. Ridiculous! This is quite different from what we would have expected from George Bush: something like the advanced return of Guantanamo to Cuba, a gesture that would eliminate Fidel's great pretext of maintaining everyone continuously mobilized "against imperialist provocations."

The return of that enclave to Cuban sovereignty would certainly generate an irresistible liberation movement in the Caribbean Island. This movement would then be extended to the entire region.

On the contrary, the U.S. foreign policy (if it can be called a foreign policy) seems to be pleased with the annexation of new Spanish American states. This, in turn, increases the current trend of establishing the Spanish language as the major language in New York. This, of course, would represent a true barbarian invasion in the eyes of most local white people. This remarkable lobby of the "military-industrial complex" on the Bush government (perhaps explained by the experience gained by the current president when he was the head of the CIA) places the United States in contradiction to the current flow of events and consolidates the increasingly different image of the pacifist and progressive Soviet Gorby (as Soviet leader Gorbachev is known to most Western European people). Asia, more distrustful and reserved, can say so. Even the FRG is slowing down reunification. These are great tactical movements in an increasingly smaller world, as compared to a Brazil that believes to be ever more integrated and sovereign (too bad for the transition group of President Fernando Collor, who have chosen Itamaraty for his meetings). [sentence as published]

Collor's 'Likely' Economy Minister Mentioned

PY0901020790 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 8 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello will announce the name of his economy minister before 26 January, when he will leave on his tour of the United States, Europe, and Asia. Yesterday in Paris, Collor's three political advisers—spokesman Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva, Deputy Renan Calheiros, leader of the PRN [National Reconstruction Party] in the Chamber of Deputies, and Deputy Cleto Falcao—mentioned economist Zelia Cardoso de Mello as the most likely choice.

Collor wants his new minister to accompany him on his short trip around the world because meetings are being

arranged with IMF General Director Michel Camdessus and representatives of the Paris Club. Collor de Mello's presence at the Brasserie Lipp in the Latin Quarter at lunchtime yesterday attracted much attention.

Zelia Cardoso de Mello did not arrive in Brazil yesterday because of mechanical problems on the plane she was supposed to take. This unexpected problem delayed the meeting she was supposed to hold with businessmen in Sao Paulo, where she is expected today.

Daily Views Problems Faced by Materiel Industry

PY0901111090 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Jan 90 p A-10

[Text] Last year, like 1988, was a bad year for the Brazilian materiel industry. It was also a hard year for Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company], which manufactures the Tucano training plane. Embraer has good orders for civilian planes but it was forced to ask the government for a $217-million (nearly 5.6 billion new cruzados at the free market) foreign credit to finance the AMX-fighter plane program. Because of this, the Embraer foreign debt increased to $600 million (nearly 15.6 billion new cruzados).

The Sao Paulo Avibras Company [Brazilian Aviation Company] is also going through hard times but its situation is stable because of the rockets that it exported to the small Arabian Gulf states that have Astros-2 type rocket-launchers, (this is the company's best export), thus obtaining a small profit.

The Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc] group showed signs of being in serious difficulties. Last year, the group sold two of its subsidiaries: Engetronica and FNV [National Railway Car Factory]. The FNV—which manufactures vehicles [as published]—was considered to have the most promising economic situation within the group. In July 1989 Engesa announced that during October it would sign the famous contract for the sale of Osorio tanks to Saudi Arabia. Negotiations over this contract started in 1986, but it has still not been signed. The latest report now states that the contract will be signed before February.

Chile

IDB Issues $360-Million Credit

PY0801000290 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] The Inter-American Development Bank, IDB, has granted a $360-million loan to Chile to be used in private sector works and in the establishment and development of a capital market. This credit, which was signed by IDB Chairman Enrique Iglesias and Chilean Ambassador to the United States Octavio Errazuriz, is one of the largest given in the past few years.

The development programs will be implemented by Production Development Corporation, Corfo, and will have an overall cost of $600 million. The difference will be made up by Chile.

The $360-million loan was assigned to Chile on 29 November. It is the first global loan and can be used for all sectors of the national economy. We have not been told how these resources will be sent to Chile nor when they will become available. It has been reported, however, that the loan will be paid back over 15 years and that there will be a 4-year grace period.

IDB sources have again recognized Chile's achievements in the economic field.

Bolivian Citizen Arrested, Cocaine Confiscated

PY0801175890 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] The Investigative Police have arrested a Bolivian citizen involved in the trafficking of 15 kg of cocaine hydrochloride that is worth more than 360 million pesos.

The drug trafficker, identified as Marco Ruben Lovero Fernandez, 20, was arrested while traveling on a bus from Azapa Valley to the city of Arica. Lovero was carrying a sports bag containing 3 kg of cocaine. He later confessed to the police that he had an additional 12 kg of cocaine in his home in Azapa Valley. The police later found the cocaine, which is worth 360 million pesos. Lovera admitted that the drug had been brought to Chile by another Bolivian citizen, currently at large, through a closed border point.

Colombia

Government Source Says Foreign Minister To Resign

PA0801181190 Paris AFP in Spanish 1744 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota, 8 Jan (AFP)—Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono will resign within the next hours, the private Caracol Radio Network has announced, attributing the report to a "ranking government" source who requested anonymity.

Following the U.S. invasion of Panama, Londono suddenly requested a vacation and today is resting on Colombia's Caribbean San Andres Island, where he issued strong statements against the U.S. antidrug blockade in international Atlantic Ocean waters.

In local political circles it has been rumored since last week that Londono—who has been President Virgilio Barco's foreign minister since he began his mandate in August 1986—would retire.

Foreign Minister Denies Rumors

PA0901023590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0138 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Bogota, 8 Jan (EFE)—Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes today denied that he is planning to resign, contrary to what the Colombian radio network Caracol reported.

From the island of San Andres, where he rested for a few days, Londono denied any discrepancies or disagreements with German Montoya, secretary general of the Presidency.

The minister will resume his functions in Bogota tomorrow.

Quoting an unidentified "top government source," Caracol today reported that the Colombian foreign minister would resign his post "in the next few hours."

The report added that Londono, the only minister who has remained in Virgilio Barco's Cabinet since he assumed office as president on 7 August 1986, had "some disagreement" with other government members regarding Colombia's stance in connection with and after the U.S. invasion of Panama.

Londono advocated a "hard line" regarding the U.S. invasion. Nevertheless, a document drafted by him and reflecting the government's reaction to this invasion, was "toned down" by Montoya and Julio Cesar Turbay, expresident and head of the ruling Liberal Party, according to Caracol.

During his vacation, Londono vigorously criticized the U.S. naval operations in the international waters off the Colombian coast.

U.S. Naval Operations Elicit Strong Reactions

Ambassador To U.S. Comments

PA0901024390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0055 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota, 8 Jan (EFE)—Victor Mosquera Chaux, Colombian ambassador to the United States, stated today that the U.S. Government "has no intention of violating our sovereignty."

During an interview given from Washington to "Caracol" Radio Network, Mosquera Chaux asserted that "what is happening is that Colombian and U.S. media are erroneously interpreting the situation."

The Colombian ambassador stated that a U.S. television network had reported that "the U.S. fleet that was to hold the alleged naval blockade of Colombian coasts, was ordered to remain in Norfolk" (Virginia, U.S.A.).

According to Mosquera, the media "lacked coordination in giving out information" based on some statements issued by U.S. officials. [sentenced as received]

Colombian media asserted today that Colombia had advised the United States that its naval or air forces could not board ships or planes—even in international waters—without prior authorization from the Colombian Government.

Apparently, and according to media reports, the U.S. Administration had agreed to contact Colombian officials prior to any action.

The operation, that has the objective of stopping the drugs that come from Colombia into the United States, was reported by a Houston (Texas, U.S.A.) radio network on 5 January. The radio reported that an aircraft carrier and a corvette had been ordered to international waters off the Colombian coast.

Colombians rejected the news and it was called a blockade by the United States. The U.S. Embassy in Bogota issued a communique ensuring that operations would be held "far from Colombian coasts."

Other U.S. media reports stated that the Colombian Government had not agreed to joint exercises being held in its territorial waters or in the international waters of the Caribbean.

Authorization Needed

PA0801212890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1952 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota, 8 Jan (EFE)—It was announced today in Bogota that Colombia has advised the United States that the U.S. Navy and Air Force will not be able to board ships or planes off the coast of Colombia, even in international waters off the coast of Colombia, without authorization from the Colombian Government.

According to media sources, apparently the requirement of previous consultation with the Colombian Presidency was acknowledged and positively received by the Bush administration.

The U.S. antidrug operation to prevent the entrance into the United States of cocaine and other substances from Colombia began several days ago when it was learned in Washington that an aircraft carrier was heading toward international waters off the Colombian coasts.

The beginning of that action instigated a discussion in Colombia, and what was considered as a U.S. blockade was rejected.

Various Colombian sectors criticized the Bush administration's position, recalling how plans to invade Panama had started, and demanded a clarification from Barco's government on the subject.

Meanwhile, Colombia refused to conduct joint military maneuvers in its territorial waters and on the high seas in the Caribbean.

It was learned in Bogota that the Colombian Government will present both positions at the upcoming presidential meeting known as the antidrug "summit," to be held in Cartagena de Indias on 15 February.

In addition to Bush and Barco, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora and possibly Peruvian President Alan Garcia will attend the summit.

Air Surveillance Stepped Up

PA0901022590 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota—The Colombian Government not long ago decided to reinforce surveillance of our airspace with combat and reconnaissance airplanes. The Northern Air Command was reinforced with Kaffir airplanes, as well as reconnaissance airplanes, that are engaged in surveillance and control missions. Colombia, through different officials, has reiterated that the country can provide surveillance for its airspace and will not allow the intervention of foreign countries for this purpose. The Caribbean area has received the most attention from the Colombian Air Force planes that are constantly flying over from Cabo de la Vela to the San Andres Island.

Liberals Oppose Manuevers

PA0901141090 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1217 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota—The Liberal Party, through its leader Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, has characterized as intimidating the U.S. forces' actions aimed at blocking Colombia's air and sea traffic as part of the war on drugs.

The former president, who returned to Colombia on 6 January, issued a communique in which he admitted that the U.S. maneuvers may be inspired by the best of intentions, but their presentation was poor. He said the maneuvers are a completely unnecessary display of force because no one doubts that the United States is the leading Western world power.

The Liberal Party communique adds that due to the recent invasion of Panama, the maneuvers planned by the United States have become intimidating in nature in the opinion of the American people, and their purpose as a simple naval exercise has been undermined.

Patriotic Union Rejects Action

PA0801160290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0048 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota, 7 Jan (EFE)—Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa, presidential candidate of the left-wing Patriotic Union (UP) in Colombia, warned today that the naval operation the United States is carrying out in the Caribbean off Colombia's coasts, under the pretext of controlling drug trafficking, "is the forerunner of an invasion."

Jaramillo Ossa said that the operation "means that we are a step away from a U.S. invasion of our country."

The installation of radar that the government headed by U.S. President George Bush intends for our country, "is a prior step" to an invasion, the left-wing politician insisted.

The presidential hopeful maintained that "it is precisely under the pretext of protecting installations and U.S. personnel that Bush invaded Panama." He added that, due to the seriousness of the situation, the government must "without delay, summon all political forces to a meeting to examine the situation."

Jaramillo Ossa's statements are added to those of other opposition leaders from the Social Conservative Party (PSC).

The PSC today urged President Virgilio Barco to hold an extraordinary congressional session. PSC President Rodrigo Barraza requested the session saying that "the situation, though confusing, is serious."

Barraza added that the press "in the United States and Colombia are reporting the U.S. operation, while the government is saying that there has been no contact" concerning the operations a fleet sent by Washington is carrying out in international waters off Colombia's coasts.

Further on Fighting With ELN, FARC Rebels

PA0801234390 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Bucaramanga—The offensive launched by the Army's Fifth Brigade against columns of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and ELN [Army of National Liberation] continues today with the support of helicopter gunships. The operation is taking place in the middle Magdalena region, where fighting has been reported since 6 January, leaving 1 officer, 3 soldiers, and at least 10 guerrillas dead.

Sketchy reports by the military authorities indicate 10 servicemen and 5 peasants were also injured in the rural area of (Llondo), located on the border between Antioquia and Santander departments. It is believed more rebels could have been killed, as the regular troops have found traces of blood in their operations. The wounded officers and NCO's were taken on a helicopter on 7 January to the Bogota military hospital.

The fighting began when Nueva Granada battalion's antiguerrilla patrols intercepted an ELN column. Later in the afternoon of 6 January and on 7 January the presence of another FARC column was detected, with the support of an airborne Fifth Brigade unit. Fighting took place on several fronts in the middle Magdalena region, on the borders of Santander, Bolivar, and Antioquia departments. Although the Fifth Brigade and the Bogota Army Command have not issued a communique on the delicate public order situation in that region, sources at the Nueva Granada battalion report that the fighting is nonstop and that the ELN and FARC columns

are moving over a vast area of the middle Magdalena region. This morning the backing of helicopter gunships and airborne troops is expected. These troops come from the Tolemaida Melgar base and the Fifth Brigade's base in Bucaramanga.

1 Officer, 3 Soldiers Dead

PA0801223590 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Army Lieutenant Alvaro Bolanos Bonilla and three soldiers were killed in confrontations with FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] guerrillas in the south of Bolivar department.

Military sources have reported that the Army raided a guerrilla training camp in which the soldiers found dynamite, field equipment, and rifle ammunition clips.

The fighting continues on the banks of El Cochal stream, San Pablo jurisdiction.

Cali Police Find Arms Cache, Detain 2

PA0801225890 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Yesterday the Cali police detained two men and confiscated 26 grenades, 5 shotguns, 2 rockets, 3 radio sets, 5 rifles, some ammunition clips, and bulletproof vests and police uniforms.

Apparently the criminals had planned to perpetrate terrorist actions in Cali in the next few days.

Ecuador

Foreign Minister Backs Colombia on Ship Presence

PA0801235990 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2312 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Commenting on the Colombian Government's decision not to permit the operation of U.S. warships in its territorial waters, Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez said Ecuador supports Colombia. Asked if the presence of two U.S. warships in the Caribbean waters for the alleged purpose of fighting drug trafficking can be termed an aggression, the foreign minister said such a description is not correct. He said U.S. President George Bush's intention is positive in the sense of struggling against drug trafficking.

[Begin recording] [Cordovez] I think the [words indistinct] Colombia, which knows much more about the problem than we do. [Words indistinct] we support Colombia in this situation.

[Reporter] Doesn't this signify an aggression?

[Cordovez] No, [words indistinct]. I think the intention behind the action is positive. I believe the problem is that sometimes the United States does not understand well the idiosyncrasies of other countries, the problems that the countries have, and the implications that the action might entail. I think that if they talk with each other, the problem will be solved. President Bush's intention in this whole problem of drugs and drug trafficking is positive. It is much more positive than that of the previous administration.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] surrender of General Noriega. What is the government's official position?

[Cordovez] The government [words indistinct] share the president's view. I think this will bring [words indistinct]. It will facilitate the [word indistinct] and the stabilization of Panama, which is what all countries (?desire). [end recording]

Peru

President Garcia on Drug Summit, Panama

PY0801120890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Interview with President Alan Garcia by unidentified reporters outside the Congress building in Lima on 7 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Guillermo Larco Cox, president of the Council of Ministers, will attend the drug summit on behalf of the Peruvian chief of state. The meeting will also be attended by the U.S., Colombian, and Bolivian chiefs of state. President Alan Garcia has said: I will accept the agreements reached at the summit. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr President, some sectors of the international media have said that you will attend the drug summit. Is this true?

[Garcia] First, I want to point out that I was the one who promoted this meeting. On my way back from Belgrade, Yugoslavia, I made a stopover in Bogota, Colombia—which was heavily criticized here in Peru—to suggest to President Barco that he, the Bolivian president, and I meet to agree on how to tackle the drug trafficking problem here in Latin America so that we could then meet with President Bush. As a result of that meeting in Bogota, President Barco, Bolivian President Paz Zamora, and I met in Ica, Peru. It was there that we agreed to invite President Bush to discuss the drug trafficking problem from the economic, financial, military, and law enforcement point of view. The United States welcomed and accepted this invitation. My proposal was well received in that country. However, we later learned about the dramatic and unforgivable developments in Panama. All Peruvians, or at least the vast majority, have condemned the invasion of Panama by U.S. troops. All Peruvians have condemned it. This, naturally, changes things. It does not change our determination to struggle against drug trafficking and the illegal production of drugs, but for a country with dignity, for a president with Latin American dignity, it makes things difficult. The representative of one Latin

American country cannot sit at the same table with someone who has invaded another Latin American country, at least, as long as Panama continues to be occupied.

This is why I have said that if the situation is not solved by 15 February, the prime minister, one of the highest-ranking Peruvian authorities, could attend the meeting and that we would sign and endorse any decision made in the struggle against drug trafficking. However, if our Latin American sovereign will has been settled and satisfied by then, we could participate; I can distinguish one thing from another. I am mature and pragmatic enough to understand the difference between continental sovereignty, which we defend wholeheartedly with Latin American pride, and the need to work together against drug trafficking.

[Reporter] Mr President, President George Bush has assured some Latin American chiefs of state, especially those participating in the drug summit, that the U.S. troops will leave Panama shortly. Second, it has been stated in the international arena that Peru has been left alone due to the recent outcome of the Noriega case. What do you have to say about this?

[Garcia] Well, if Peru has remained alone it has done so as a respectable country, it has remained alone as a country that represents the Latin American sovereign will. However, this is not the case. Many other countries have harshly rejected the invasion, because there is no other name for it, the U.S. invasion of Panama. That business about a country or a person remaining alone is no reason to stop, provided the cause is justifiable. Do not tell me that I should not do what I consider fair, merely out of fear of remaining alone. I believe in justice and the objectives of truth. If, just for this reason, I were to remain alone, not politically alone but physically alone, well, I would choose to remain alone. But this is not the case, the Latin American youth, the worthy Latin American people, those who are proud to have belonged to a free continent for the past 150 years, know that if we are invaded we will not remain impassive. Would you like someone to raid your home? Would you like someone to come into your home without your permission to solve the problems that you should solve? Well, we Latin Americans do not like this, and I am not afraid of two or three commentators who uphold colonialism and say that Peru is alone. Those who do not rebel against arbitrary actions are colonists who should have lived 150 years ago under the Spanish empire.

[Reporter] President Bush might have promised some chiefs of state that he would withdraw his troops. Did he get in touch with you?

[Garcia] Well, I expect the U.S. troops to leave Panamanian territory as soon as possible. From the beginning, we demanded that they leave. We have said that the U.S. troops should not have come to Panama. Accepting the fact that the troops were sent in, our demand was that they should leave because as long as they are there we cannot have a normal or cordial relation, which we wanted to have through a financial understanding, and our...[changes thought]...my proposal for the Cartagena meeting. However, as long as the U.S. troops stay, there can be no meeting or normal relations. It would be wrong for us to say that nothing has happened and that we are here gathered as great friends while one nation has taken over a part of the continent we represent. I expect that the U.S. troops will leave as soon as possible, but a wound has been opened that will be difficult to heal. I also would like to say something that probably no one else will say on the continent. Mr. Noriega probably was a dictator, it is likely that he may have been involved in criminal acts both inside his country or by taking deposits of international drug money, all this is likely. However, we must not look for a scapegoat so as to make us forget the size of the drug problem. For every one Noriega there are tens of millions of consumers in the rich countries and the governments of these rich countries have done nothing decisive during the last decades to put an end to that consumption. So, we should not merely stage a circus performance with Mr Noriega, ridiculing an individual. Do not forget that everyone makes firewood of a fallen tree. I know why, but it is easy to attack someone who has lost power. I am defending someone who was possibly involved in fraudulent or criminal acts, but I feel that the dignity of a human being should be respected. A human being, no matter how many crimes he has committed, is a human being. So, if everyone in Latin America remains silent, at least I will not.

[Reporter] President Bush has affirmed that General Noriega will have submitted to a fair trial. Is that possible?

[Garcia] A fair trial would be one conducted by judges in Panama. This would be fair.

[Reporter] But he surrendered

[Garcia] Given the circumstances that his country has been invaded, it is not correct to say that he surrendered of his own accord. Noriega should be tried by Panamanian judges because he is a Panamanian. This is what all Latin America has asked. Everything else has been done by brute force, with violence. Lawyers know that in these circumstances all that is said lacks judicial validity.

[Reporter] An IMF mission is scheduled to arrive tomorrow. What is Peru's position toward the directorate of this international organization?

[Garcia] I understand that it will arrive in a few days, not tomorrow. We maintain our proposal completely unchanged. We have a position on the debt: Nobody should have to pay more than he can without sacrificing the country's development. Second, nobody should accept an international organization telling him what to do in his own country. If the IMF has changed its position, as it is reported in the newspapers, and if it accepts our policies of development, and of lending money to increase the buying power of salaries, it means

that things really are changing. The mission will come here to see how this new approach can be put into practice. Easier said than done is an apt popular saying. But this should not dampen our optimism and our hope that things have indeed changed. If the Berlin Wall has fallen and if there is so much change in the world, then why should not the IMF change? I am not skeptical; I always harbor hopes that things will change for the benefit of the poor in the world and I am sure that we will win because justice is on our side. [passage omitted]

Five Killed in Shining Path Attacks

PY0801205290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2029 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] Lima, 7 Jan (EFE)—Police sources today reported that five people were killed by terrorist groups in different towns in San Martin and Junin Departments.

Two national police corporals and one civilian died in an attack by about 10 members of the Shining Path terrorist group against a local police station in Morales District, San Martin Department, 950 km northeast of Lima. According to the sources, another police officer was also seriously wounded in the clash, which took place on 4 January at about midnight, and the attackers used submachine guns.

Two officials—a prosecutor and a member of the local agriculture committee—from the peasant community of Palca, in Peru's Central Mountains, 265 km east of Lima, were shot to death by Shining Path members on 4 January. The terrorists gathered the townspeople in the main square and shot the two victims in the head in front of everyone.

A Senate committee that is investigating and analyzing the phenomena of violence in the country reported that more than 17,500 people have been made victims of political violence in Peru since the Shining Path took up arms in May 1980. The committee also pointed out that deaths from political violence increased by 60 percent last year relative to 1988.

State School Director Killed

PY0901132490 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1222 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Lima, 9 Jan (AFP)—The Peruvian police have reported that the director of a state school was murdered last night by Shining Path terrorists who shot him three times in the head, in a poor neighborhood of Chincha, 300 km south of Lima.

Three people were killed yesterday by the Shining Path Maoist guerrilla movement in Peru: Two policemen who were conducting traffic in the northern sector of Lima were also killed by a Shining Path "annihilation commando."

The police have reported that the murder of the school director in Chincha coincides with the appearance of leaflets in which the Shining Path threatens to resume its actions in the region, south of Lima.

Terrorist Command Kills Two Lima Police Officers

PY0801214890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] A terrorist command cold-bloodedly murdered First Sergeant Jose Zuniga Revilla and Corporal Jose Tataje Ramos from the Police Traffic Department. They were killed in front of the San Martin de Porras district city hall this morning.

A police spokesman said that the two police officers were killed while they were on duty in that area. Three of the four attackers have reportedly been arrested.

Venezuela

Political Leaders Ratify Panama Policy

PA0901033990 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0019 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The national government's position regarding the Panama case was strengthened following a high-level meeting attended by the top Venezuelan political leaders. The meeting called by the Venezuelan president was attended with responsibility and produced a position without any political bias.

It was Venezuela's decision not to recognize any Panamanian government until U.S. troops are withdrawn from that country.

The high-level meeting called by President Carlos Andres Perez to consolidate a position regarding the Panamanian case was held as scheduled at the Miraflores Palace and ended with the ratification of Venezuela's initial position after the 20 December invasion of Panama.

All the representatives consulted agreed on the importance of the meeting. The purpose was not to define a political position, but Venezuela's position.

Former President Rafael Caldera summarized the matters discussed:

[Caldera] "First, it was decided that the formal recognition of the new Panamanian government should be delayed or made conditional on the withdrawal of foreign troops. At present, that government is undermined [mediatizado] by the presence of a foreign army. Second, it was decided that to the extent it may be prudent and convenient, and taking into consideration the strong links that exist between the Venezuelan and Panamanian people, we should try to help, encourage, orient, and assist the Panamanian people and government in their efforts to normalize the situation and effectively establish an institutional government in that country."

For the government, the positions expressed by the top leaders were satisfactory, because although there were differences of opinion regarding the matter, the interest to help Panama recover its normalcy prevailed. This showed understanding toward all the efforts conducted by the government, including private contacts. We interviewed Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo:

[Reporter] "We understand that President Perez sent a letter to Panamanian President Endara today. What are the contents of that letter?"

[Figueredo] "President Perez did make some private contacts within the efforts he has conducted to seek formulas by which Venezuela and Latin America can constructively help the Panamanian people overcome the suffering they have been enduring for so long."

Former President Luis Herrera Campins said that the time has come for Panama to revise its internal legal order, as its legality was crippled, a situation which cannot continue.

[Campins] "We really believe that it is not the time to assume national positions—although every democratic country must assume its national positions with responsibility—but real hemispheric positions in defense of the self-determination and nonintervention principles, and of course the sovereignty of our nations."

David Morales Bello, who represented the Democratic Action Party, expressed his organization's total support as follows:

[Bello] "I believe that Venezuela's position regarding Panama's case was strengthened as a result of this meeting. President Perez has seen that the political community which gathered here feels that it has been rightfully interpreted in the general guidelines presented so far as Venezuela's position."

Pompeyo Marquez [secretary general of the Movement Toward Socialism] and Eduardo Fernandez [secretary general of the Social Christian Party] expressed different views regarding Guillermo Endara. While Marquez said that the imposed Panamanian president lacks legitimacy, Fernandez said that he won the elections which were annulled by General Noriega. However, both agreed in condemning the invasion and demanding the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops.

[Marquez] "In practice, it is a defacto government undermined by the presence of foreign troops who invaded the country and committed an act of genocide there. Therefore, a democratization process in Panama must include elections."

[Fernandez] "In any event, Endara is the legitimate Panamanian president. However, I believe that we must wait for the withdrawal of the occupation forces and then help with a process for democratic legitimacy."

Guyana

Ambassador Rebukes U.S. Over Invasion of Panama

FL0801155990 Bridgetown CANA in English 1541 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] United Nations, Jan 6, CANA— In a rebuke of the United States over its invasion of Panama, Guyana has warned that the sending of American Marines into the Central American nation could undermine efforts to bring peace to Central America and affect relations in the Caribbean and Latin America.

"The recent events in the troubled Panamanian isthmus have understandably raised some concern in the hemisphere about the resort to force as a means of settling disputes," Samuel Insanally, Guyana's ambassador, said at the UN. "This concern obviously does not bode well for the future of inter-American and Caribbean relations and should therefore be removed as quickly as possible.

"What Guyana wants the United States to do is to re-affirm the "sovereignty and territorial integrity," of Panama, he said. At the same time, Insanally called on all countries at the UN "to collectively agree" to try to settle all of their conflicts "through dialogue and negotiation."

The ambassador complained that by sending its troops into Panama the U.S. had struck a "most discordant note" at a time when there was "general rejoicing at the perceived triumph of cooperation over confrontation" in relations between UN members. "We had come to believe that there was intent between the United States and the USSR that regional conflicts would cease and a regime of peace would shortly be installed throughout the world," he went on. "These expectations must not be allowed to die."

Insanally's statements, considered by many UN observers to have been the strongest made by any Caricom country since President George Bush sent American troops into Panama, used such words and phrases as "debacle", "hostilities" and "hostage to military force" to describe the invasion and its possible results. "The use of force, no matter what the rationale will only aggravate conflict and result in the disastrous consequences for both sides," he declared.

Hoyte Meets With Opposition Delegation

FL0501235690 Bridgetown CANA in English 2212 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 5, CANA—President Desmond Hoyte on Friday [5 January] held his first meeting with a delegation from the opposition Working People's Alliance (WPA).

According to a "joint press release" issued at the end of the talks, which were held at the Presidential Secretariat, "both sides recognised the urgent need to secure the general welfare of the country and to bring about a

greater involvement of the people at all levels in the management of their affairs".

The statement said the discussions also took account of the fundamental changes in the present international environment. The statement, which is short on details, said that views were exchanged on proposals outlined in a WPA document which had been circulated previously and that the proposals "emphasised the importance of consultation to promote the process of dialogue, which, it was felt, should proceed in good faith and openness."

The talks were summoned by the president in response to a WPA resolution passed recently in the National Assembly calling on the government to consider as a matter of urgency the initiating of serious and open dialogue and consultations with all interested social forces and organisations on the important issues of the day.

"The meeting was marked by a cordial and frank discussion and provided a good opportunity for the preliminary exchange of views within the context of the national dialogue envisaged by the resolution," the joint statement said.

In its document entitled "WPA's Recommendations on Dialogue," the WPA listed more than 31 political, economic, social, and environmental issues which it said should be discussed. These included the question of electoral reforms. However, in keeping with the nature of the invitation for Friday's talks, it was expected that only the framework for the process of dialogue and consultations—and not the substantive issues—would have been discussed.

At the talks, Hoyte was accompanied by general secretary of the ruling Peoples National Congress (PNC), Seeram Prashad; the PNC's chief executive officer, Malcolm Parris; head of the Presidential Secretariat, Cedric Joseph; principal political officer, Office of the President, Halim Majeed; and the PNC's executive officer, National Orientation, Jenniker Telford.

The WPA delegation included Moses Bhagwan, Bonita Harris, Stanley Humphrey, Eusi Kwayana, Joshua Ramsammy, and Rupert Roopnaraine.

The meeting was the first between the ruling People's National Congress and the 10-year old WPA which has consistently accused the PNC of assassinating the late Dr. Walter Rodney in June 1980—allegations strongly denied by the PNC.

Finance Minister Details Economic Plan Troubles

FL0501153590 Bridgetown CANA in English 2016 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Report by Courtney Gibson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 4, CANA— Nine months after its launching, Guyana's Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) remains in deep trouble. Targets set under the ambitious programme are askew after strikes in the key bauxite and sugar industry and problems in landing the large financial inflows the government had anticipated. Worried officials here say arrears on Guyana's debt are up by another 20 million U.S. dollars, the country's big social programme not fully under way, and that the economy was headed for negative growth at the end of 1989.

In an interview with the Caribbean News Agency, Finance Minister Carl Greenidge detailed the problems faced by the Economic Recovery Programme. He said that while he had projected in his March 31 budget presentation that the Guyana economy would grow by 4 percent in real terms, it now seems that the outcome for the just ended year will be negative growth.

He explained that, as a result of the problems being encountered, the economic programme monitored by the International Monetary Fund which was supposed to cover the period April 1989 to December 1989, may now well have to be extended into the first quarter of this year but it has not yet been agreed how far into the quarter it would be extended. In addition, the government's plans for entering into agreements with the IMF this month for an Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) to be complemented by a standby facility, have been rescheduled for sometime this quarter.

Greenidge said the government had hoped that by December 1989 the country's arrears to the multilateral financial institutions would have been cleared by way of bridging finance provided by members of the Guyana support group of mainly Western donor countries. This would have paved the way for the country to conclude the ESAF and standby arrangements with the Fund this month.

He explained, however, that as a result of the post-1989 budget strikes which hit the bauxite and sugar industries, and resulted in lower export earnings than planned, together with the lateness of foreign inflows, Guyana has not been able to generate the funds needed for servicing that portion of its debt to the multilateral financial institutions which it had promised to keep current. As a result, the country has accumulated another 20 million U.S. dollars in arrears (additional to the 180 million U.S. dollars) related to the period from the end of March to December 31, last year.

Greenidge said: "As a consequence, the time-table pertaining to the monitored agreement (with the IMF) has been revisited and it may well be extended into the first quarter of 1990. How far into the quarter has not been agreed." He said that while there was no "major problem" in the Guyana support group finding the bridging finance to clear Guyana's 180 million U.S. dollars arrears, the group has not yet provided any assistance to make up for the 20 million U.S. dollar shortfall attributable to the strikes.

"If those monies were made available in a timely fashion, then we would have converted them into

exports and part of that increment in export earnings would have gone towards clearing the arrears," he remarked. "As it is now, the additional amounts, if they are provided by the support group, will go almost entirely to the repayment of the debts—the clearing of the arrears—because we don't have time to go through the cycle of assistance: Imports, production, export earnings, payments."

Meanwhile, according to Minister Greenidge, the government has just completed with the IMF, a review of the 1989 period of the monitored programme but there is some additional information which has to be put together. He said the government and the IMF are scheduled to continue their talks later this month and the upcoming round is very likely to be held in Washington.

He said one factor that will be pivotal to the terms of the arrangements which are finally worked out with the IMF will be the level of assistance received from the support group and it is now clear that the commitments made by the group in December 1988 "are not commitments that can work now." He said "the whole question of an appropriate level of support is one that has now to be negotiated" and the discussions in recent months have tended to involve the support group.

He described as "quite valid," concerns being expressed in the region about the likely implications for countries like Guyana of recent developments in Eastern Europe. "This has to be a concern.... We have seen member countries of the international financial community find hundreds of millions of dollars for Eastern Europe at the drop of a hat and (we have witnessed) protestations about administrative difficulties and other things constraining the provision of funds to Third World countries, Guyana being no exception," Greenidge remarked.

He reported that the volume of assistance provided through the international community for Guyana's Social Impact Amelioration Programme (Simap) aimed at cushioning the blow of the government's austerity programme "has been zero, so far, to be very frank." He said it was not likely that Simap would come fully on stream early this year.

Dealing with the question of the rescheduling of Guyana's external debt, Minister Greenidge said while this has been progressing at a pace more rapid than had been anticipated when the government signed the agreement for the IMF monitored programme last March, the problems have been twofold. First, it has not been possible to get some countries to respond with dispatch to Guyana's approaches for rescheduling of its 1.8 billion U.S. dollar foreign debt primarily because there is a large number of countries involved in the rescheduling of their debts and, "as a consequence, you (have to) join a queue."

Second, there have been some problems in getting concessions which are "significantly exceptional." "As far as the quantum of assistance is concerned, we have found, generally...that countries have tended to start with the Paris Club Agreement as a first position, not recognising that we had, at the time of the agreement indicated that our own assessments were that the needs were far greater than the relief provided...," the finance minister explained.

He pointed out, however, that Guyana has been able to persuade a number of countries "to provide some extra relief in keeping with our needs." But while he would not name the countries which have agreed to grant "significantly exceptional" rescheduling terms, he disclosed that to date, more than 50 million U.S. dollars in debts have been rescheduled and agreements have been reached with Brazil, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom (commercial debts only, so far) and the United States.

In addition, the government hopes to conclude rescheduling agreements shortly with the Japan, The Netherlands and Sweden. He said the move to incorporate the parallel economy into the formal one had had limited success. "What we have really managed to do is to simply hold the fort—hold the line—as regards the parallel economy in terms of its expansion but more resources would be necessary to enable us to start to deal with that by way of say, a lower rate of inflation and a smaller gap between the two rates." The official bank rate is 33 Guyana dollars to one U.S. dollar and the parallel market rate hovers around 50 to one.

On government's announcement it will divest 10 companies, he said. While some local companies have shown interest in the businesses, it seemed that many of the local companies are themselves strapped for resources and tend to seek arrangements which would allow them to acquire the assets now on a pay-later plan. This, he said, is not the government's first preference. Others, he reported, offer what they can afford and this is, invariably, less than the value of the assets.

The government, he said, will be using the resources from the sale of assets to reduce its stock of internal debts so that "the burden of servicing this debt every year would not loom so large." He said that while the government has tried to control its spending and to reduce the internal debt, the impact of the programme in this respect has been "limited." He explained that in view of the country's high bank rate, "inevitably, the stock of debt is going to rise."

But at the same time, we are supposed to control expenditures on things other than debt servicing and to some extent that has happened (though) because of late implementation of some of the measures and the continuing cushions being provided to the public, the fiscal gap has not been reduced at the rate we had hoped," he admitted. [quotation marks as received]

Suriname

Shankar Vows To Fight Drugs, Economic Woes

FL0801213790 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] The increasing terror, which is disturbing the peace process of Suriname, is part of a bigger scenario which has as its goal the ending of democracy in Suriname.

This was stated by President Ramsewak Shankar in his New Year's speech by radio and television.

Shankar pointed to the increase in illegal armed groups which, through troubles, seek to serve their interests.

The government, according to the head of state, is also disturbed about the increased involvement of Suriname in the international drug trade and the bad economic situation.

Shankar, during his New Year's speech, declared that the government will deal drastically with price inflators and the drug trade and that that could disturb the peace process.

Shankar 'Disappointed' With Achievements To Date

FL0801205490 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] President Ramsewak Shankar said he is disappointed with the government's achievements so far. He doesn't rule out the possibility of new faces in his Cabinet so as to carry out the policy of the government.

The head of state last week Monday [1 January] in a televised interview stated that certain projects have still not come off the ground. He said this is because of the lack of capable leadership and personnel at the ministry and lack of foreign currency.

According to the head of state, in the coming 3 years, the government policy, if necessary, must be carried out with the help of foreign experts.

Shankar said that the problem with price increases, corruption, and the power struggle are also being discussed in the national dialogue.

The representatives from 14 functional groups, which in three work groups discussed different aspects of the national crisis, according to the president, in 3 months will come up with the first concrete proposals to solve the crisis.